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# The History of St. Mary's Training School At Des Plaines, Illinois (1882-1942)

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THE HISTORY OF  
ST. MARY'S TRAINING SCHOOL  
at  
DESPLAINES, ILLINOIS  
(1882 - 1942)

by

REVEREND WILLIAM DAVID FISHER

A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate School  
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Degree of Master of Arts  
at  
Loyola University  
1942

## VITA

William David Fisher, born at Chicago, Illinois; attended St. Gertrude Parochial School and Quigley Preparatory Seminary. Received his degree of Bachelor of Arts from St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein, Illinois, in June, 1935. Was ordained to the Holy Priesthood April 23, 1938.

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## INTRODUCTION

The efforts of Catholic historians in this country have, at the present time, one general object - the production of a history of the Catholic Church in the United States. This, at first glance might seem unimportant and unnecessary, for general texts and detailed studies of certain periods have been produced in a respectable quantity and with a requisite degree of scholarship concerning the history of our country. But Catholic scholars still maintain that the History of the United States, which gives adequate credit to the role of the Church in the discovery, exploration, foundation, and growth of "The Land of The Free", is yet to be written. Is, then, the work of eminent American historians of the past and present to be discredited? Not in the least. But it must be remembered that much of the history of America has been written by non-Catholics; and to many of them, as to most Protestants, the Roman Catholic Church is still an enigma, a stumbling-block, an obstacle for whose presence they cannot quite account and whose importance they cannot comprehend. Catholic contributions to the history of our country have been, by comparison, pitifully small.

To do justice to the history of the Catholic Church in the United States does not fall within the scope of the ability of any individual historian, however gigantic the stature of his scholarship. It is the work of all Catholic scholars; and, in a certain sense, it is the duty of those who have bound themselves in a special way to the service of the church, for theirs is the obligation to make Christ and His Church known to their fellowmen. Each may

according to his ability and energy, contribute a part to the whole. The priest in his own diocese, the religious in his or her own community, will find ample subjects for research. The result of their combined efforts will be the History of the Catholic Church in the United States of America.

The Church in her mission among men and nations throughout the centuries has never overlooked the fact that Christ Who came to save the souls of men, also had compassion on the physical weakness of human beings and never avoided an opportunity to alleviate human suffering. Throughout the centuries the Christian Charity of the Catholic Church has taken form in the institutions erected under her guidance and supervision to care for every type of misfortune and suffering that the Providence of Almighty God permits to afflict human beings. Civil governments have come to realize, in comparatively recent times, that they also have an obligation to provide for the care of the sick, the aged, the insane, and the orphans. Occasionally one of these state institutions acquires an unsavory reputation through mismanagement and a general lack of the application of christian principles. When public attention is brought to bear on similar institutions under the aegis of the Church; and there is a desire to know what the Church is doing for these "unfortunates". Once in a while one of the charitable institutions of the Church receives considerable favorable publicity; and the cry goes up for more places like it. The truth of the matter is that the Church in this country has institutions to care for the victims of every kind of human misfortune. But, because they are in the charge

of men and women consecrated to the service of God, who have no desire for publicity beyond that which may be necessary to obtain the means for continuing their work, they seldom attract public attention.

For sixty years St. Mary's Training School, at Desplaines, Illinois, has sheltered within its buildings orphans left without means of support by the death of one or both parents, and children whose parents were unable to give them the necessities of life. It is not the only orphanage in the Archdiocese of Chicago; and it is not the oldest. It is situated some ten miles northwest of the present limits of the City of Chicago. It was founded by Archbishop Reehan, rebuilt by Archbishop Quigley, and incorporated into the archdiocesan system of Charities by Cardinal Mundelein. It may be said to be, since the advent of Archbishop Stritch, in the fourth era of its existence. But this history of the school is concerned only with its beginning, expansion, and improvement under the first three Archbishops of Chicago. What the future may hold is no concern of ours; for history is a record of the past. And the record of three generations of charity at St. Mary's is sufficiently glorious to demand our attention.

The treatise has been built around six topical headings, which seem to lend themselves to a clearer delineation of the history of the institution than a strict chronological sequence possibly could. However, the chronological order is followed within the chapters themselves, as is necessary in an historical treatise. The first period in the history of the school lasted less than two years.

Yet it seems to be a distinct period, because the charter under which the school existed became obsolete as the result of later and more favorable legislation. The second period, during which time the board of managers exercised rather complete control over the administration of the school, was equally brief. The third period, which lasted for twenty years, saw the administration of the school chiefly under the control of a priest-secretary-treasurer of the board, who in many instances was also Chancellor of the Archdiocese. The fourth period, which coincided with the reign of Archbishop Quigley, and in which the rebuilding and expansion of the school took place, was characterized by the prominence of the board under the energetic direction of Mr. John A. Lynch.

The fifth period extends through the first twenty years of the reign of Archbishop (later Cardinal) Mundelein; and during this time the institution became one of the units in the newly created archdiocesan charity system. The final period began in 1936 with the appointment of Father O'Connor as superintendent; and to him are due the modern improvements in the internal life of the institution. Although the first and last chapter of this treatise coincide with the first and sixth (we ought not say 'final') period in the history of St. Mary's, it was more feasible to consider the remaining, and by far the greater number of, years under such natural headings as "Administration" and "Expansion". Since the most important item concerning such an institution is the way in which it cares for those committed to its charge, a separate chapter on "Training" was an absolute necessity. The history of any project



would be incomplete if nothing were said concerning the cost of operation and the manner in which the necessary means were obtained; and so some representative facts and figures have been arranged in the chapter on "Finances" - which is by no means intended to resemble an auditor's report with respect to its completeness.

Gratitude is due to the Reverend Martin G. Hayden for his permission to pursue the studies of which this treatise is the result and for his kindly encouragement; to the Reverend Eugene V. Mulcahey for his generous permission to use the archives of St. Mary's; to the Reverend John P. O'Sullivan for his assistance in giving the author a complete knowledge of the operations of the school at the present time; to Mr. D. F. Bremner, Sr., for his assistance in obtaining facts about the trustees of the school; and to others who have given of their time and ability in the preparation of this work. It is the hope of the author that their interest may not have been in vain and that this thesis prove an acceptable contribution to the history of the Church in this city and in this nation.

## Chapter I

### FOUNDATION

On September 10, 1880, the Right Reverend Patrick A. Feehan, Bishop of Nashville, was appointed First Archbishop of Chicago. His new See city, recovering rapidly from a fire which had almost completely destroyed her less than a decade before, contained many problems for the new metropolitan. Chicago at the time of his succession contained some thirty Catholic churches, providing for the spiritual needs of a population largely of Irish extraction. Like every new Ordinary he gave considerable time early in his administration to a consideration of the institutions of his archdiocese; and his survey led him to decide that more were necessary. He had been in Chicago little more than a year when he determined to add to the charitable institutions of the diocese a training school for boys, a school in which dependent boys would be educated and taught some trade, by means of which they would later be able to earn their livelihood.

The first orphan asylum for boys in the diocese of Chicago was incorporated in the early 60's.<sup>1</sup> This should not be understood to imply that there were no orphanages in Chicago before 1860. It was located in the southwestern part of the city, in the section known as Bridgeport. The institution did heroic work in caring for the hundreds of children left homeless by the great fire of 1871. The Christian Brothers were in charge of the institution. However,

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<sup>1</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. XII, p. 4904.

it proved to be inadequate for the needs of the new archdiocese.

The archdiocese in those days possessed neither the means nor the personnel to promote such an undertaking; so the Archbishop called upon a number of the prominent members of the Catholic Laity of the city to form a corporation and assume the responsibility for carrying out his plan for the school.

On the sixth of February, 1882, the Secretary of State of Illinois issued a charter for the organization of the St. Mary's Training School for Boys as a legally organized corporation under the laws of the State of Illinois.

#### CHARTER

State of Illinois,

Department of State.

HENRY D. DEMENT, Secretary of State.

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas, A certificate, duly signed and acknowledged, having been filed in the Office of the Secretary of State, on the sixth day of February, A. D. 1882, for the organization of THE ST. MARY'S TRAINING SCHOOL FOR BOYS, under and in accordance with the provisions of "An Act concerning Corporations," approved April 18, 1872, and in force July 1, 1872, a copy of which certificate is hereto attached.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry D. Dement, Secretary of State of the State of Illinois, by virtue of the powers and duties vested in me by law, do hereby certify that the said THE ST. MARY'S TRAINING SCHOOL FOR BOYS, is a legally organized corporation under the laws of this STATE.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereto set my hand and cause to be affixed the great seal of State. Done at the City of Springfield, this sixth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand, eight hundred and eighty-two, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and sixth.

HENRY D. DEMENT,  
Secretary of State.

To Henry D. Dement, Secretary of State:

We, the undersigned, P. A. FEEHAN, W. J. QUAN, DANIEL SCULLY, WM. A. AMBERG, MICHAEL CUDAHY, F. W. YOUNG, J. P. LAUTH, JAMES H. BURKE, PATRICK GILLESPIE, BERNARD FACKELDEY, PATRICK GOSLIN, WM. J. HYNES, THOMAS BRENNAN, JOHN B. LYNCH, WM. J. ONAHAN, MICHAEL KEELEY, JOHN W. ENRIGHT, PATRICK H. RICE, BERNARD CURTIS, JAMES BARNETT, OWEN CURRAN, THOMAS J. LYNCH, PHILIP A. HOYNE, BERNARD CALLAGHAN, CHARLES A. MAIR, THOMAS LYNCH, P. J. HEALY, GEORGE W. SMITH and PATRICK S. FANNING, citizens of the United States, propose to form a corporation under an act of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, entitled "An Act concerning Corporations," approved April 18, 1872, and all acts amendatory thereof: and that for the purposes of such organization we hereby state as follows, to wit:

1. The name of such corporation is "THE ST. MARY'S TRAINING SCHOOL FOR BOYS."
2. The object for which it is formed is, to care and provide for, maintain, educate and teach or cause to be taught, some useful employment, all boys lawfully, committed to or placed in its charge by parents, guardians, friends, relatives, or by any Court, or in pursuance of any law or legal proceedings, or in any other proper manner, who, on account of indigence, misfortune, or waywardness, may be in want of assistance and proper training.
3. The management of the aforesaid corporation shall be vested in a board of thirty managers, who are to be elected triennially.
4. The following persons are hereby selected as the Managers to control and manage said corporation for the first year of its corporate existence, viz.: P. A. Feehan, W. J. Quan, Daniel Scully, Wm. A. Amberg, Michael Cudahy, John Cudahy, F. W. Young, J. P. Lauth, James H. Burke, Patrick F. Gillespie, Bernard Fackeldey, Patrick Goslin, Wm. J. Hynes, Thomas Brennan, John B. Lynch, Wm. J. Onahan, Michael Keeley, John W. Enright, Patrick H. Rice, Bernard Curtis, James Barnett, Owen Curran, Patrick S. Fanning, Thomas J. Lynch, Philip A. Hoyne, Bernard Callaghan, Charles A. Mair, Thomas Lynch, P. J.

Healy and Geo. W. Smith.

5. The location is in the City of Chicago, in the County of Cook and State of Illinois.

(Signed)

P. A. FEEHAN	WM. J. ONAHAN
W. J. QUAN	MICHAEL KEELEY
DANIEL SCULLY	JOHN W. ENRIGHT
WM. A. AMBERG	PATRICK H. RICE
MICHAEL CUDAHY	BERNARD CURTIS
JOHN CUDAHY	JAMES BARNETT
F. W. YOUNG	OWEN CURRAN
J. P. LAUTH	PATRICK S. FANNING
JAMES H. BURKE	THOMAS J. LYNCH
PATRICK F. GILLESPIE	PHILIP A. HOYNE
BERNARD FACKELDEY	BERNARD CALLAGHAN
PATRICK GOSLIN	CHARLES A. MAIR
WM. J. HYNES	THOMAS LYNCH
THOMAS BRENNAN	P. J. HEALY
JOHN B. LYNCH	G. W. SMITH

At the first meeting of the board of managers, which was held on February 8, 1882, Daniel Scully was elected temporary chairman and Frank W. Young, temporary secretary.<sup>2</sup> In a letter read at this meeting the Archbishop offered to begin the fund for the erection of the new school with a donation of \$5,000. The by-laws which were to govern the board were adopted at this meeting. No one could be a member of the board of managers without the recommendations of the Archbishop of Chicago.<sup>3</sup> It was further decided that the officers of the Corporation should be an honorary president, a president, first and second vice-presidents, a financial secretary, a recording secretary and a treasurer. These were to be officers of the Corporation as well as of the board.<sup>4</sup> The regular meetings of

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<sup>2</sup> St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p. 2.

<sup>3</sup> Idem, Vol. I, p. 3.

<sup>4</sup> Idem, Vol. I, p. 3.

the board of managers were to occur on the second Wednesday of February, May, August and November of each year. It was necessary for at least one third of the 30 managers be present to form a quorum.<sup>5</sup> The Executive Committee of the Corporation consisted of the officers of the corporation and three managers elected by the Corporation.<sup>6</sup> The school was in charge of the Christian Brothers and under the control of the Brother Director.<sup>7</sup> It was finally decided that no officer should receive any compensation for his services.<sup>8</sup>

At the next meeting after the reading of the by-laws the members proceeded to the election of their officers. The Archbishop was named Honorary President of the Board of managers; and the following officers were elected for the first year: President, W. J. Quan; First Vice-President, Bernard Callaghan; Second Vice-President, J. W. Enright, Recording Secretary, F. W. Young; Financial Secretary, Bernard Fackelday; and the three members added to the executive committee were C. A. Mair, Bernard Curtis, and W. A. Amberg.<sup>9</sup> At subsequent meetings it was decided that the Executive Committee should meet on the first and third Saturdays of each month; that the Treasurer's bond should be \$20,000; that the funds of the organization should be placed on deposit at the Chicago National Bank; and that the Secretary should procure a Seal. Then the Board settled

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<sup>5</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p. 5.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid.,

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid.

<sup>9</sup>Idem, p.p. 6-7.

down to its principal task - namely, that of securing the needed funds for the project.

The necessary money was raised in several ways. Influential members of the Catholic laity of the city were invited to meet the Archbishop and the members of the board at a special session. Subscriptions amounting to nearly \$14,000 were obtained by Brother Teliow, the superior of the group of Christian Brothers, who were to be in charge of the School. The Board urged the Archbishop to sell the Bridgeport Asylum so that the proceeds might be applied to the Training School.<sup>10</sup> However, it was discovered that the property belonged to the nearby parish and not to the diocese. But the Archbishop decided that the Training School must have the value of the improvements made on the Bridgeport property. The difficulty in arriving at an evaluation of the improvements agreeable to both parties led to the selection of three men - one by the Board, one by Father Grogan, the pastor of the Bridgeport parish, and one by the Archbishop. Their estimates differed widely, according to the side each was representing, the board's representative putting the highest valuation on the property, while Father Grogan's agent placed the lowest valuation on it. The Archbishop decided on the recommendation of his representative that the improvements were worth \$4,500 and that this price must be paid by the parish to the board.

The site for the Training School was selected by Father Conway, the Vicar General; he chose the Knott Farm at River Bend,

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<sup>10</sup> St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p. 15.

near Desplaines; the 440 acres of land could be purchased for \$30,000.<sup>11</sup> The purchase of the property was approved by the Board. To expedite the purchase of the farm Mr. Charles A. Mair, a member of the board, offered to advance \$20,000 on a First Mortgage on the property with interest at seven per cent, payable when the corporation had the funds.<sup>12</sup> As might be expected, his offer was promptly accepted. The farm was purchased in the name of the Catholic Bishop of Chicago.

The problem of transportation next confronted the managers. However, an agreement was reached with the Chicago and North Western Railway Company to transfer boys from Chicago to Desplaines at a minimum rate, to give two passes to the Brothers, and to carry freight to the extent of 350 cars for \$5.00 a car - which contract was to hold for four years.

An excursion to the farm was planned for June 15; and invitations were extended by the Board of Managers to the Mayor, the Aldermen, the County Commissioners, and to the Archbishop and clergy to view the site of St. Mary's Training School. In this way the Board hoped to arouse the enthusiasm of the most influential people of Chicago, men whose aid would be invaluable in completing the building program successfully. Shortly after the excursion the Board formed numerous committees to solicit subscriptions from the various groups of business men of the city.

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<sup>11</sup> St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. 1, p. 13.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.



The board next decided to have a picnic at River Grove, near Desplaines for the purpose of adding to the Building Fund. They petitioned the cooperation of the various organizations of the city, but met with little success, since the date selected was unsuitable. Finally, the picnic had to be cancelled, because the railroad would not provide special trains for that particular day.

At the same time, however, the erection of the necessary school buildings was in progress. As soon as the property was purchased, Brother Teliow was instructed to buy some livestock. Steps were taken to procure for the farm exemption from taxes. Early in September plans were made for the ceremonies in connection with the laying of the cornerstone. Archbishop Feehan set October 8 as the date for this important affair. Father Conway promised to have a Bishop present to deliver the discourse on this occasion. The temperance Societies of the city were invited to take part in the festivities.

It is interesting to note the type of organizations that prevailed in the various parishes three generations ago. Some of the standard organizations with which we are familiar today, such as the Holy Name Society, were conspicuous by their absence in those years. There were national groups, such as the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the St. Stanislaus Kostka Society, and the St. John Baptist Society. There were men's sodalities in Holy Family Parish and in Sacred Heart Parish. There were charitable organizations, among which were the Emerald Benevolent Association and Columbkille's Benevolent Association and Columbkille's Benevolent Society. But most prominent of all parochial organizations in the Chicago of sixty years ago were the

temperance and total abstinence societies. There were Temperance Societies at Holy Family Church and at St. Pius Church; and there were Total Abstinence Societies at St. Patrick's, Sacred Heart Church, and the Holy Name Cathedral.<sup>13</sup> All of these parochial organizations, and especially the Temperance and Total Abstinence Societies were exclusively for men. The enumeration of these societies should not be considered inclusive. The St. Vincent De Paul Society was then as now among the prominent organizations of Catholics in Chicago. Catholic life in Chicago undoubtedly included parochial organizations for women, but it is noteworthy that such an active Catholic spirit existed among the men. Indeed, nearly everyone of these societies guaranteed the attendance of one hundred or more at the ceremonies of the laying of the cornerstone.

No effort was spared to make the occasion a memorable one. The line of march and a general invitation to the public were printed in the "Citizen". Again the Mayor, the Board of Common Council and the Board of County Commissioners were invited, and they accepted the invitations.

Financially the affair was successful; for Brother Teliow, in his report to the Board of Managers in December notes that \$1,560 was the profit realized from the sale of tickets for the ceremonies of the Laying of the Cornerstone. In this same report he explains that donations during the year have reached \$19,000 and that \$4,500 was received for the Bridgeport property. During the same period \$13,000 was paid

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<sup>13</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p.p. 29-30.

on the farm and \$9,000 on the buildings, while \$4,000 had been paid for live stock and farm implements.<sup>14</sup>

In January 1883 the Board of Managers held its annual elections. According to the by-laws of the corporation ten were to be elected for a three-year term, ten more for a two year term, and ten for a one year term. Those elected for a three-year term were Archbishop Feehan, Bernard Curtis, P. H. Rice, D. F. Bremner, Bernard Callaghan, W. A. Amberg, P. J. Healy, Jas. H. Burke, F. W. Young, and P. F. Gillispie. Those elected for a two-year term were W. J. Onahan, Thomas Brenan, W. P. Rend, Daniel Scully, J. B. Lynch, James Barrett, John W. Enright, Charles A. Mair, P. A. Hoyne, and John Adams. For a one-year term the following men were elected: W. F. McLaughlin, Charles Walsh, J. C. Carroll, J. J. McGrath, Bernard Fackeldy, J. B. Sullivan, Michael Schweisthal, L. Moninger, Peter Fortune, and Peter Conlan. The Archbishop was re-elected Honorary President. Bernard Curtis was elected President; Bernard Callaghan, First Vice-President; Michael Schweisthal, Second Vice-President; Bernard Fackeldy, Financial Secretary; Frank W. Young, Recording Secretary; D. F. Bremner, Treasurer; and P. H. Rice, William F. McLaughlin, and W. A. Amberg were added to the Executive Committee.<sup>15</sup>

In April of this year Brother Teliow reported that the expenses of the school for the Month of March amounted to \$2,800, while the receipts were only \$2,500. Mr. Enright suggested that a collec-

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<sup>14</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p. 38.

<sup>15</sup>Idem, p.p. 41-43

tion be taken up in the churches to meet the deficit. Brother Teliow thought that this could be accomplished by the sale of excursion tickets. However, the members of the board offered to advance the money themselves to meet the debt.<sup>16</sup>

Judge Scully, a member of the board, was also President of the St. Vincent De Paul Society. This society was sponsoring a Jubilee Lecture, which was to be given by the Reverend Edward Terry. Judge Scully told the board that the Society had decided to devote the proceeds of this affair to the fund for the Training School.<sup>17</sup>

The principal concern of the board during the year 1883 was a certain piece of legislation at Springfield, known as House Bill 441. It was an act designed "to aid training schools for boys". A committee of the Managers was appointed in January to go to the state capitol and to do everything possible to promote the Bill. Printed lists of the Managers of St. Mary's Training School were distributed to the legislators to acquaint them with the individuals who favored the passage of the Bill. The Bill passed the House in May; and a committee of the board together with Father Hodnett went to Springfield and after some delays obtained the passage of the Bill in the Senate in June.<sup>18</sup>

The Board of Managers felt that since the Training School would come under this new statute, their initial work had been accomplished. They decided that the corporation should be reorganized

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<sup>16</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p. 47

<sup>17</sup>Idem, p. 49

<sup>18</sup>Idem, p. 59

on this new basis. This last meeting occurred in August of 1883.

Thus ends what might be termed the first period in the history of St. Mary's, the difficult period of beginning; but, in this case, considering the brevity of the period, it was one of considerable accomplishment. The loyalty and effort of the members of the Board of Managers augured well for the future of the institution.

## Chapter II

### ADMINISTRATION

In considering the administration or management of the Feehanville School<sup>1</sup> our material is abundant, chiefly because this history is being compiled from the records of the board of managers, who were the administrators of the institution. Although this chapter might be variously divided, four distinct periods seem to present themselves. They are chronological in sequence. The first period, lasting little more than a year, concerns the reorganization under the new charter. The second period is one in which the dominant influence on the Board appears to have been the priests who succeeded one another in the post of secretary-treasurer. The third period, coinciding with the coming of Archbishop Quigley to Chicago, is that in which the board seems to have been dominated by the personality and energy of Mr. John A. Lynch, at that time president of the Bank of the Republic, in Chicago. Finally, the fourth period concerns the administration of the school from the time of the appointment of Archbishop Mundelein to the year 1936, when the modern reorganization of the school took place.

On the fourteenth of August, 1883, Governor Hamilton granted permission for the organization of St. Mary's Training School under the provisions of "An Act to provide for and aid Training Schools

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<sup>1</sup>The land on which St. Mary's Training School was located was known at that time as Feehanville, Illinois, in honor of Archbishop Feehan, whose summer residence was on the grounds of the school

for Boys", which had been passed by the legislature on the previous June the Eighteenth; and on the same day the new Charter was granted by the Secretary of State, Mr. Dement.<sup>2</sup> The Managers convened on the Fifth of September and elected their new officers: President, Mr. Bernard Curtis; First Vice-President, Mr. John R. Walsh; Second Vice-President, Mr. Thomas Lynch; Treasurer, Mr. D. F. Bremner; and Secretary, Mr. Zenophile P. Brosseau.<sup>3</sup> The board then gave its attention to the revision of its by-laws. These were completed early in the following year.

The new by-laws, while substantially the same as those adopted in 1882, further defined the duties of the managers in the government of the school. Three managers were to constitute a committee for the reception of pupils.<sup>4</sup> A committee consisting of two members of the board and a representative of the diocesan clergy was appointed to visit the school monthly, report to the board, and in general have authority to define the rights and duties of the pupils and their teachers.<sup>5</sup> The new by-laws also defined more minutely the duties of the Superintendent of the School and the Superintendent of the Farm.

Anxious to provide the benefits of St. Mary's for the greatest number of boys possible the board entered into contract with the local and federal governments. During this year they made a contract

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<sup>2</sup> St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p.p. 89-90.

<sup>3</sup> Idem, p.p. 71-72.

<sup>4</sup> Idem, p. 93

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

with the County Commissioners to accept such boys as the County would commit to their charge.<sup>6</sup> At the request of the Department of the Interior of the United States they agreed to accept Indian boys from the reservations at Devil's Lake and Standing Rock.<sup>7</sup> The agreement with the County Commissioners was amended to this extent that the School would take care of no more than one hundred boys for the County at any one time.<sup>8</sup>

The board exercised a very careful supervision of the school during this period. The institution was very young; and its guardians took their responsibility as seriously as a mother does in the care of her infant child. In October it was "Moved that Bernard Fackelday (Brother Teliow) be appointed Superintendent of St. Mary's Training School and unanimously approved". The statement is of incidental interest, because for the first time does the student of the early records of the institution realize that these two names refer to one and the same person. A farm and school committee, consisting of the Reverend P. J. Conway, V. G., Mr. Rice, and Mr. Bremner, visited the school regularly, in order that the board might be kept informed of conditions at Feehanville. Their first report, given at the meeting held on the fourteenth of May, 1884, is of more than ordinary interest, because it shows the concern of these men and of the entire Board for the well-being of the institution:

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<sup>6</sup> St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p. 73.

<sup>7</sup> Idem, p. 74.

<sup>8</sup> Idem, p. 83.



"We visited St. Mary's Training School different times during the past month. We found the stock, a report of which will be given by the superintendent of the farm, in good condition and as well cared for as circumstances permitted. We employed Mr. John Higgins as superintendent of the farm at a salary of \$500 per annum and the use of the farm house. We are of the opinion that Mr. Higgins' superintendency will give the board satisfaction. A fence at the south line of the farm and west of the road is needed. A suitable fence along the road in front of the buildings that would be in keeping with the landscape designs which the superintendent is laying out, is desirable. The school enclosures and the cellars require to be raised and graded, all of which is being done. Several inches of gravel coverings are very desirable at the earliest time on the play grounds. The concreting of the cellars seems important, not only for sanitary measures but also to afford suitable wash and bathrooms, recreation halls, and also to give ample accommodations for carrying on the various trades contemplated. The plastering which, owing to the settlement in the North and South Buildings, was cracked, presenting an unsightly appearance, was repaired. The walls of the North and South Buildings should at once receive a coat of whitewash, which should be renewed each year.

"The attic of the North Building, which has been used for a dormitory, is uncomfortable in its present unfinished condition; it ought to be plastered before next winter, in order that it may be used. It has been difficult to keep the school in a becoming manner, but having made due allowance for the ill-appointed playgrounds, etc., we regret to state that the premises have not been kept in a clean and healthy condition; we were gratified today to see marked improvements and appointments which look to the order of the institution and to the number of boys sent from the court have escaped from the institution. They are at large in the city. Blame is not alleged in this connection to the Brothers. The buildings were not, up to the present, suitably appointed to prevent the boys escaping. The greatest vigilance should be exercised in order to guard as much as possible against the boys running away. Hence the boys should ever be under the supervision of the Brother prefects. It is highly important that a prefect be over the boys, while they shall be employed at manual labor, so

that their conduct and habits of industry may accord with the aim of the Training School. This is an expedient which admits of no question or discussion. Under good management and by a dutiful cooperation of the Brother Director and the Superintendent of the Farm the institution will be a great success. In fine, the aim of the school being to give to all the faculties, physical, intellectual, moral, and religious a completeness and a perfection according to the pupils' capabilities, is to impart then not only a good English Education, but also to incite the pupils to habits of industry, to direct them to be skilled farmers and gardeners, and to train them, in a word, for the various physical studies of things on which by far the greatest number of the boys in the institution shall be best fitted. Hence the industries and trades, shall go hand in hand with education, moral and religious developments, in order to carry out the object of St. Mary's Training School."<sup>9</sup>

At their meeting in the Month of September, 1884, the Board of Managers selected as their officers for the coming year Mr. Curtis, President; Mr. Walsh, First Vice-President; Mr. Scully, Second Vice-President; Mr. Bremner, Treasurer; and Mr. Brosseau, Secretary.<sup>10</sup>

At this time there appears in the records the name of Brother Leo as Superintendent of the School.<sup>11</sup> No doubt he succeeded Brother Teliow, although no explicit mention is made of this change. Several amendments to the by-laws were proposed at this time. The reason for these changes can only be explained by certain regulations which were made by the Archbishop two months later.

When the Board of Managers met on October 8, 1884, the Reverend P. J. Conway, V. G., read this letter from the Archbishop:

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<sup>9</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p.p. 99-101.

<sup>10</sup>Idem, p.p. 112-113

<sup>11</sup>Idem, p. 114

"I have received a notice of a meeting of the Board of Managers of the Training School to be held this evening. I cannot attend as I have to be at Lockport.

"If I may make a suggestion as to the best mode of management of our training school, I believe it will be found much more satisfactory to give entire charge both of the School and also of the agricultural department to the Christian Brothers and that the Board of Managers regulate the financial affairs of the school.

"Will you please return thanks for me to the gentlemen of the Board and especially the officers for their great zeal and generosity to the Institution. I have entire and unlimited confidence in them. I hope the organization will continue to act under the charter so as to secure for the school the compendation for children committed from the city and county, and because those devoted gentlemen can aid us in many ways to make the institution gradually a great success."<sup>12</sup>

At this meeting, the President, Mr. Curtis, tendered his resignation, but was persuaded to hold office until the next meeting. In view of the fact that his election had taken place only a month previously, his desire to resign can only be explained by the fact that he was aware of further changes in the administration of the Training School contemplated by the Archbishop, with which he was not apparently in accord.

The meeting held on November 12, 1884, is extremely important, because at its changes that were to affect the administration of the Training School for the next twenty years were made. The Reverend P. D. Gill, the Chancellor of the Archdiocese, was nominated for the place on the Board of Managers made vacant by the absence

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<sup>12</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p. 118.

from three successive meetings (according to the by-laws) of the Reverend H. Coughlin, one of the petitioners for the Second Charter. Then Mr. Bremner, the Treasurer; and Mr. Brosseau, the Secretary, offered their resignations; and they were accepted. The resignation of Mr. Curtis, the President, which had been pending from the previous meeting, was also accepted; and Mr. Scully, the Second Vice-President, took the Chair. Father Gill was then nominated to the vacant offices of Secretary and Treasurer, and was unanimously elected; he then read the following communication from the Archbishop:

"Regulations for the Chancery Office

(re) St. Mary's Training School

"All requisitions for the Training School will be sent to the Chancellor the first of each month. If the requisition be approved, the Brother in charge will make the necessary purchases and send the bills for payment to the Chancery Office. If anything requested should seem extravagant, or unnecessary it will be reported to the Archbishop. All moneys received by the Brothers from any source for the institution will be given into the Chancery Office. The Brothers, however, may retain one hundred dollars a month for incidental expenses.

"An accurate monthly report of the school and farm will be made to the Chancellor and a copy of the same sent to the Archbishop.

"From the diocesan orphan fund the Chancellor can use the amount of \$200 a month for the Training School if necessary. The Christian Brothers will have entire charge of the School and Farm.

"The above regulations will go into effect from this date.

P. A. Feehan,  
Archbishop

Chicago, Nov. 1, 1884."<sup>13</sup>

There is nothing in the records of the meetings of the board to indicate the reason for this change of attitude on the part of the Archbishop towards the administration of the Training School. It is probable, as has been intimated, that this new plan was known to several members of the board, and possibly to all of them, before it was formally presented at the meeting. The reason of His Grace must remain a mystery. Possibly it was suggested to him during his recent visit to Rome. However, that is only a conjecture. By electing the Chancellor a member of the Board of Managers and also as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board, the Managers adopted the only course of action left open to them; to have failed to take this step would have rendered their continued existence futile. We cannot but commend them for their prompt accession to the wishes of their Ordinary.

In January, 1886, Father Gill resigned, and his office of Secretary-Treasurer was filled by the Reverend Bernard P. Murray. The other officers for that year were Mr. Andrew Mullen, President; Mr. A. C. Hessing, First Vice-President; and we notice that from this time on the board adjourns subject to the call of the Secretary, rather than of the President.<sup>14</sup>

During this period the Board of Managers met regularly during the Month of January each year; and only occasionally did they hold more than one meeting a year. Their active guidance of the affairs of the Training School seems to have waned considerably. The actual direction of the destinies of St. Mary's seems to have

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<sup>14</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p. 128

centered upon the Brother superintendent, the Priest Secretary-Treasurer, and the Archbishop. The enumeration of the priests who occupied the office of Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Managers is included, not because their efforts in behalf of the school are outstanding, but simply because they include some of the very prominent ecclesiastical figures in the history of the Archdiocese.

Father Gill, the first Secretary-Treasurer of the board, had come to Chicago from Nashville with Archbishop Feehan, who made him Chancellor of this new Archdiocese. After his term in the chancery office was over he was made pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church. In 1895 he succeeded Father Patrick O'Brien, who also had come to Chicago with Archbishop Feehan, as pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in the Lakeview district of the north side. Due to failing health he was obliged to resign this pastorate in 1917; and he died in retirement on January 4, 1924.<sup>15</sup> Father Murray was the founder and first pastor of St. Bernard's parish on the south side of Chicago, to which he gave the name of his patron saint. He also founded St. Bernard's hospital within the parish boundaries and obtained the services of the Hospitalers of St. Joseph from Canada, a community of nursing sisters of which his own sister was a member, to take charge of the hospital. His sister, Mother Cecilia Murray, is the present superior at the hospital. Father Murray died on March 22, 1917.<sup>16</sup>

In 1888 Father Murray resigned from the board; and his

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<sup>15</sup>Epstein, Rev. Francis J., Decet Meminisse Fratrum, Higgins, Chicago, 1937, p. 31.

<sup>16</sup>Idem, p. 45.

place was filled by the election of the Reverend Michael J. Fitzsimmons. Father Fitzsimmons was born in Chicago but raised in Morris, Illinois. He pursued his classical studies at St. Joseph's College at Teutopolis, his philosophy at St. Viator's in Kankakee, and his theology at St. Mary's in Baltimore. He was ordained on August 8, 1882, and was made assistant chancellor and secretary of the archdiocese. He succeeded Father Conway as pastor of the Cathedral on July 3, 1888.<sup>17</sup> He was administrator of the archdiocese prior to the appointment of Archbishop Mundelein and was vicar-general of the archdiocese up to the time of his death on March 12, 1932.<sup>18</sup>

When Father Conway died in 1888, the Reverend F. J. Muldoon was elected to fill his place on the board.<sup>19</sup> Father Muldoon was ordained on December 18, 1886. He succeeded Father Gill as pastor of St. Charles in 1895. He was consecrated Titular Bishop of Tamassus and Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago on July 25, 1901. He was appointed Bishop of Rockford on September 28, 1908, and was assistant to the Pontifical Throne on June 8, 1931. He died on October 8, 1927.<sup>20</sup> He was Secretary-Treasurer of the board of managers from 1889 to 1906.<sup>21</sup> His place on the board of managers was filled by the Reverend Nathaniel J. Mooney.<sup>22</sup> Although Bishop Muldoon was administrator of

<sup>17</sup> The New World, January 19, 1895.

<sup>18</sup> Epstein, Rev. Francis J., Decet Meminisse Fratrum, Higgins, Chicago, 1937, p. 43.

<sup>19</sup> St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p. 131.

<sup>20</sup> Epstein, Rev. Francis J., Decet Meminisse Fratrum, Higgins, Chicago, 1937, p. 80.

<sup>21</sup> St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p. 136

<sup>22</sup> Idem, p. 156.

the Archdiocese prior to the appointment of Archbishop Quigley, Father Mooney was chancellor of the Archdiocese and pastor of St. Columbkille's church at the time of his death on October 10, 1906.<sup>23</sup> In 1899 Reverend Francis J. Barry succeeded Father Mooney as Secretary-Treasurer of the board of managers at the Training School.<sup>24</sup> In later years he was pastor of St. Mary's Church in Lake Forest, from which duties he resigned in 1932. He died on January 13, 1934.<sup>25</sup>

From 1888 to 1904 Mr. James H. Burke was President of the board of managers; Mr. Peter Conlan was First Vice-President during this same period; and Mr. Michael Sullivan was Second Vice-President during these years, with the exception of the two years (1901-1903) during which Mr. Philip Conley held that office. This period in the administrative history of St. Mary's may be said to end with the death of Archbishop Feehan, which occurred on July 12, 1902. When the board met on January 13, 1904, it adopted the following resolutions, indicative of the esteem in which the late Archbishop was held by the managers of the Training School:

"Whereas the Board of Managers of St. Mary's Training School has learned with sorrow of the death of Archbishop Patrick A. Feehan, which sad event occurred July 12, 1902, one of the founders of this school and since its organization in 1883 its Honorary President-:  
and

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<sup>23</sup> Epstein, Rev. Francis J., Decet Meminisse Fratrum, Higgins, Chicago, 1937, p. 80.

<sup>24</sup> St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p. 165.

<sup>25</sup> Epstein, Rev. Francis J., Decet Meminisse Fratrum, Higgins, Chicago, 1937, p. 32.



"Whereas, it is meet and fitting that his associates in the management of this school should place upon the records of this Board of Managers expressions of their love for him as a man and their admiration for him as a great prelate of God's Church; Therefore, be it

"Resolved, that in the death of the Most Reverend Patrick A. Feehan, this Board of Managers of St. Mary's Training School has lost an unerring guide and the world a great benefactor. He was generous, ever aiding the needy. He was patient, waiting with confidence for the fruition of his labors. Great in simplicity, earnestness of purpose and fidelity to the principles of right, he won the love of those who knew him best, and we humbly believe, has been crowned by the Omnipotent for Whose honor and glory he at all times so zealously labored. Requiescate in peace; and be it further

"Resolved, that the foregoing be spread upon the minutes of this Board of Managers."<sup>26</sup>

The new Archbishop of Chicago, the Most Reverend James Edward Quigley, was present at the above mentioned meeting; indeed notices for the meeting were sent out under his orders, requesting the presence of all of the Trustees. He addressed the members of the board and requested that they make certain changes in their by-laws. The following resolution, in accordance with the wishes of the Archbishop, was unanimously adopted:

"We the trustees of St. Mary's Training School, Feehanville, hereby for each of us, and each for himself, certify our unqualified consent and approval to the proposed change in charter, constitution, and by-laws whereby the number of trustees be made five instead of thirty, and that a special meeting at which the same shall be finally considered be called for Wednesday, February 17, 1904, at eight o'clock P.M. at Cathedral residence, 311 E. Superior Street in the City of Chicago."<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p.p. 179-180.  
<sup>27</sup> Idem, p.p. 181-182.

This resolution was signed by all the managers present and copy was mailed to every member of the board by the Secretary, Father Barry. The resolution was passed with all the formality of Parliamentary Law at the special meeting. Then Father Barry presented the names of Michael Cudahy, D. F. Bremner, John A. Lynch, Andrew J. Graham, and James H. Burke, and moved that they be chosen Trustees of the Training School. Their election took place immediately.<sup>28</sup> Thus ended the second era in the history of the Trustees of St. Mary's.

At the residence of the Archbishop (623 N. State St.); at this meeting, the first under the new regime, Mr. D. F. Bremner was elected President, and Mr. James H. Burke, Secretary. Father D(ennis) O'Brien was elected Superintendent (of the school) and Treasurer (of the board).<sup>29</sup> It must be presumed, however, that Father O'Brien never assumed his duties for he was not mentioned as being present at this meeting or any subsequent meeting, and his name does not appear on the minutes at any other time. Less than a year later the name of Father George T. McCarthy appears on the Minutes as Secretary of the board and later as Superintendent of the school.<sup>30</sup> This latter post he held until July, 1907. Although his association with St. Mary's was relatively brief, Father McCarthy has enjoyed a long and distinguished career to the Archdiocese and to his country. During the World War he was Chaplain of the Seventh Division. He was wounded in battle; but official recognition only came in 1936, when

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<sup>28</sup> St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p. 192.

<sup>29</sup> Idem, Vol. II, p. 1.

<sup>30</sup> Idem, Vol. II, p. 1.

he was granted the award of the Purple Heart for unusual bravery displayed under fire. For more than twenty years he has been pastor of St. Margaret Mary Church, near the northern limits of the City of Chicago, which he founded in March, 1921. The rapid growth of his parish and the number of societies and sodalities which have been organized for the spiritual welfare of his people are proof that he has lost none of the zeal, with the passing of the years, that characterized his efforts at St. Mary's.<sup>31</sup>

At the first meeting of the Board a new set of by-laws, the third in the history of the institution, was drawn up and approved. The principal changes were: (1) That the number of managers was reduced from thirty to five, and (2) That the officers of the Corporation were elected for a three year term, instead of annually.<sup>32</sup> In 1905 the post of Vice-President of the Board was created, and Mr. John A. Lynch was elected to that office.

Mr. Michael Cudahy resigned from the board in 1904; and the following year Mr. Burke died. Their places, however, were not filled until Mr. William A. Amberg and Mr. E. F. Carry were elected in 1907.<sup>33</sup> The chief concern of the Board at this time was the building program. Plans had been drawn for Archbishop Feehan some years previous by a Mr. Pashley, an architect. The Board re-examined these plans, found them faulty, and dispensed with the services of

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<sup>31</sup>The New World, June 12, 1936 and December 9, 1938.

<sup>32</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. II, p. 261.

<sup>33</sup>Idem, Vol. II, p. 166.

Mr. Pashley. The board then hired Mr. William J. Brinkman. Mr. Pashley claimed that he had a contract signed by the late Archbishop Feehan, but he would not produce it. He submitted a bill for \$20,000 for his services, and, when the Board refused to pay, instituted a law suit. On examination by experts his plans were found to be altogether inadequate, and it was quite apparent that, had the buildings at St. Mary's been erected according to his specification, a disaster would inevitably occurred. The lawyers for the Archbishop were convinced that they had a complete defense, and were prepared to go to court, confident of a legal victory. Almost without previous warning, the Archbishop announced that the case was to be settled out of court for \$10,000 - or half the sum for which Mr. Pashley was suing. This sum was to be paid out of the funds of the school. This undoubtedly irked the Board of Trustees. The lawyers seemed no better pleased with the turn of events. At a slightly later date Mr. Lynch explains that some of the priests of the Archdiocese had persuaded the Archbishop to settle the matter out of court and thus avoid the notoriety of a public trial. The financial blow to the Trustees was softened by the generosity of the new architect, Mr. Brinkman, who cut his fee in order to assist them by way of a personal contribution to the school.<sup>34</sup>

On July 1st, 1906, a major administrative change took place in the school itself. This work had been done by the Christian Brothers from the time the school was founded, but, at this date the

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<sup>34</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. XII, p.p. 4909-11

Sisters of Mercy took over the actual care of the boys.<sup>35</sup> They were destined to continue in this work for the next thirty years. Father McCarthy was the Superintendent of the School at the time of the arrival of the Sisters. But in 1907 the Archbishop thought it would be better to have one of the Sisters act as Superintendent in order that there might be a certain unification of authority. When Father McCarthy was relieved of his duties at St. Mary's, Father Cryne was appointed Chaplain; his duties, and those of his successors in that office for the next few years, were purely spiritual; he had no authority in the administration of the school.<sup>36</sup>

Due, as has been mentioned, to the resignation, illness, and death of different members of the board, the burden of administration fell on the very capable shoulders of Mr. Lynch during the years from 1904 to 1907. In this latter year his efforts were recognized by his election to the Presidency of the Board of Trustees for a three year term ending in 1910. Mr. Bremner was chosen Vice-President at this election.<sup>37</sup>

Through the influence of Mr. Lynch with the Chicago & North Western Railroad, a side track was extended into the grounds of St. Mary's. This work was completed in November, 1906.<sup>38</sup> The track was owned and operated by the railroad. In May of 1907 Mr. Pechin, the Superintendent of the Chicago & North Western Railroad sent the following communication to Father McCarthy:

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<sup>35</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. XII, p.p.4909-11

<sup>36</sup>Idem, Vol. IV.

<sup>37</sup>Idem, Vol. II, p. 267

<sup>38</sup>Idem, Vol. XII, p. 4912

"Will you please advise me who is the legal owner of the motor car which you people are using on the track from DesPlaines to Feehanville? Is the St. Mary's Training School incorporated and does it own and operate the motor car, or is the motor car owned and operated by some other organization? It is our impression (although we have no authority whatever for saying so) that this institution is owned and managed by the Catholic Bishop of Chicago who is a corporation sole.

Will you please advise me as promptly as possible regarding the above. I desire this as a matter of information and a prompt reply, I assure you, will be appreciated."<sup>39</sup>

This letter was forwarded by Father McCarthy to Mr. Lynch. Before answering, Mr. Lynch sought the advice of the Archbishop with regard to the questions raised in the letter. Mr. Lynch was of the opinion that the motor car was owned by the Catholic Bishop of Chicago and that it was insured in his name. He also believed that the Catholic Bishop of Chicago operated the car and that the Training School, although a corporation, was simply his tenant. On the following day the Archbishop replied to Mr. Lynch's letter:

"ARCHBISHOP'S RESIDENCE  
623 NORTH STATE ST.  
CHICAGO

May 16, 1907

"My Dear Mr. Lynch:

"I have jotted down the following points, which you may use in answering Mr. Pechin's letters:

- 1st. St. Mary's Training School is a corporation.
- 2nd. The Trustees of St. Mary's Training School Corporation manage the institution in all its details, including the motor car.

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<sup>39</sup> St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. III, p. 43b

3rd. The Trustees of St. Mary's Training School, out of its own funds, constructed all buildings now in use by the school, and paid for all the furnishings of them, including the motor car.

4th. The farm land round the institution is in the name of "The Catholic Bishop of Chicago", a corporation sole. The St. Mary's Training School Corporation occupies it under an arrangement with the Catholic Bishop of Chicago.

5th. This arrangement is only temporary, and the farm land and all other property of every kind, including the motor car, is to be acquired by St. Mary's Training School Corporation as soon as a satisfactory arrangement, now under consideration, between the two corporations can be made.

6th. Mr. Pechin's information to the effect that the "Catholic Bishop of Chicago" owns and operates St. Mary's Training School is incorrect to the extent laid down in the above points; furthermore, the Trustees are not silent figure-heads as his information insinuates. All the monies used in the construction, furnishing, and maintenance are funds of St. Mary's Training School and are disbursed by them as its Trustees. The Trustees, also as the minutes of their meetings will show, manage and operate the institution in all its details.

You might place these points in the hands of an attorney and have him frame an answer to Mr. Pechin accordingly.

Yours truly,

J. E. QUIGLEY  
Archbishop" 40

Mr. Lynch's reply to this letter shows a business man's concern; he was afraid that this interpretation of the "Corporation Sole" would lead to difficulties in the matter of insurance, since

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<sup>40</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. III, p. 436

the Trustees would have difficulty in proving ownership in "The Catholic Bishop of Chicago" - in whose name the insurance was made out.<sup>41</sup> The Archbishop passed over this argument, saying that the Archdiocese held too much insurance for the company to quibble about technicalities in case of a fire at St. Mary's.<sup>42</sup> The point of note in this matter is the unusual interpretation of the Corporation Sole by Archbishop Quigley. All Catholic Church property in the archdiocese is in the name of the Catholic Bishop of Chicago as a Corporation Sole. Archbishop Quigley's interpretation would seem to make the Trustees of St. Mary's a "Holding Company" - entirely responsible for the financial status of the institution, thereby relieving the Archdiocese of any obligation to assist the school in case of its inability to meet its bills.

As has already been stated, the personality and energy of Mr. Lynch dominated the affairs of the Training School during the reign of Archbishop Quigley. The impress of the character of this man is on every page of the records of the school during these years. But his is not the only name of importance in the history of the school at that period. Further investigation brings forth the names of two others whose efforts on behalf of the children of St. Mary's is perhaps even more important than that of the distinguished President of the board. The first of these was the Reverend James M. Doran, who was appointed Superintendent of St. Mary's on December 20, 1911. The other was Sister Mary Geraldine, who was appointed

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<sup>41</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. III, p. 437

<sup>42</sup>Idem, Vol. III, p. 439.



Manager of the School on January 31, 1912.<sup>43</sup> We notice that the Archbishop reverted to the original plan of having a priest act as Superintendent of the institution within the space of a few years. Just what the relation is between "superintendent" and "manager" is not quite apparent from the records; but it seems to be the same as that which exists between a president of a college and a dean. Father Doran guided the destinies of St. Mary's for nearly sixteen years. The children at the school today are reminded of this zealous priest by the fact that one of the "Halls" bears his name and also by the fact that the altar in the Chapel is dedicated to his memory. The last few years of his life were made more difficult by almost constant illness. Finally years of unceasing toil took their toll, and on December 21, 1927, Father Doran was called to his eternal reward.<sup>44</sup>

Most of the years during which Father Doran was Superintendent of the Training School were spent under the regime of Chicago's third Archbishop; for on July 10, 1915, Archbishop Quigley died at Rochester New York. On December 31, 1915, the Trustees of St. Mary's met the new Archbishop of Chicago, the Most Reverend George William Mundelein, formerly Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn. At this meeting, in order to acquaint the new Archbishop with the affairs of the Training School, extensive reports were read by Mr. Lynch, the president of the board, by Father Doran, the Superintendent of the School, by Sister Mary Geraldine, the Manager of the School, by Mr. Dooley, the Manager of

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<sup>43</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. XII, p. 4917.

<sup>44</sup>The Voice of St. Mary's, Vol. I, No. 8, June, 1939.

the Farm, by Dr. E. A. Earle, the attending physician, and by Dr. Austin A. Hayden, the specialist.<sup>45</sup>

To assist Father Doran during his latter years Archbishop Mundelein assigned the Reverend Francis M. Hart to the Training School in 1922. Father Hart was born in Ohio in 1886, but received his early education at Nativity parochial school and De La Salle High School in Chicago; he also attended St. Cyril's College. He studied at the Seminary of St. Mary of the West in Cincinnati; and he was ordained by Archbishop Quigley in the Holy Name Cathedral on December 23, 1911. He was an assistant at St. Andrew's and at St. Catherine of Genoa and then was sent to the Training School. In 1925 he was appointed Pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Lemont Illinois; and on April 25, 1941 he was appointed to succeed the late Monsignor Foley as Pastor of St. Ambrose Church on the south side of Chicago.<sup>46</sup> Then, in 1925, the Reverend William A. Cummings was appointed to take Father Hart's place as assistant to Father Doran; but his term of residence at St. Mary's lasted only a few months because of an unanticipated order from Rome, which made Monsignor Moses Kiley, the archdiocesan Superintendent of Charities, Spiritual Director of the North American College. The Cardinal appointed Father Cummings to the important post in the charity office and named the Reverend John S. Collins assistant Superintendent at St. Mary's. Father Collins was born on the south side of Chicago in

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<sup>45</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. XII, p.p. 4903-67

<sup>46</sup>The New World, April 25, 1941.

1889. As a boy he attended St. Anne's and St. Anselm's parochial schools and De La Salle High School. He received his degree in pharmacy from Northwestern University; but two years later decided to become a priest. He was accepted by the Archbishop of Chicago and sent to St. Charles Seminary and later to St. Paul; but he finished his course in theology at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary (Mundelein, Illinois) and was ordained by Archbishop Mundelein in September, 1918. After ordination he was assigned to St. James Church, as an assistant to the Right Reverend Monsignor Patrick W. Dunn; and on March 11, 1926 was transferred to St. Mary's Training School. When Father Doran died the following year, the Cardinal named Father Collins Superintendent, entrusting him with the responsibility of caring for the twelve hundred children that were housed at the institution in those days. So capable did he prove to be that in 1936, when Monsignor Quinn, the Pastor of St. Sylvester's Church died, the Cardinal appointed Father Collins to the pastorate of that large northwest side parish.<sup>47</sup> The record of Father Collins' superintendency at St. Mary's fully justified the trust that the Cardinal reposed in him. The various improvements made by him in the financial administration of the institution as well as those that resulted in the physical betterment of the children speak volumes for his ability, energy, and priestly zeal.

The principal changes in administration instituted by

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<sup>47</sup>The New World, Sept. 18, 1936.

Cardinal Mundelein only indirectly concerned the Training School. The Catholic charitable activities of the Archdiocese of Chicago were organized during 1917. Their organization and the centralized diocesan program were one of the first achievements of the new Archbishop. The result was one of the first diocesan organizations of Catholic Charities in the country. With little experience available from other sources, Chicago faced the same difficulty in this matter as every other pioneer. The Characteristic feature of the Chicago plan of Catholic Charities was the creation of a double organization, the Catholic Charities for financing, and the Catholic Charity Bureau for operation, coordination, and supervisory control, decentralized enough to allow responsibility and initiative to remain in each institution or agency. In April, 1917, the Archbishop of Chicago met with a group of prominent Catholic laymen to organize a single agency for the collection of all funds necessary for the operation of the existing Catholic charitable agencies and institutions. During this year the plan was perfected and on January 21, 1918, the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago received a charter from the State of Illinois. The organization of the Catholic Charities in Chicago solved one of the chief problems in the field of charity in the archdiocese, namely - the need for adequate financial support. This work was considered the field for lay activity and lay leadership. In spite of the excellent and effective work of the many charitable institutions of the archdiocese their uncoordinated effort

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The information in the above paragraph was obtained largely from the pamphlet published in connection with the Twenty-Sixth National Conference of Catholic Charities, held in Chicago, Nov. 17-20, 1940.

indicated the need for another organization under the direct control of the Archbishop, a charity office for the archdiocese.

When the Catholic Charity Bureau was established in March, 1918, the Reverend Moses E. Kiley was appointed the first Superintendent of Charities. But Father Kiley's special talents were recognized in the Eternal city (as we have already mentioned) and he was called to Rome to be Spiritual Director to the students at the North American College. Later Monsignor Kiley was named Bishop of Trenton, and in 1940 he succeeded Archbishop Stritch as Archbishop of Milwaukee. When Monsignor Kiley went to Rome, his post in the Charity Office was filled by Father Cummings until 1938, when Monsignor Cummings was named Pastor of the Church of the Ascension in Oak Park. The third and present Superintendent of Charities is the Reverend William A. O'Connor, D.D. From the time of the organization of the Charity Bureau, all reports from St. Mary's were made to the Superintendent of Charities, and all important changes in the method of management of the various institutions, including St. Mary's, were subject to his approval. During the regime of Cardinal Mundelein the importance of the Board of Trustees declined, although they are still an active body; and in fact some of them are keenly interested in the welfare of the children of St. Mary's. The administration of the school is determined principally by the Superintendent of the school, by the Charity Office, and by the Archbishop.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>48</sup>Report of the Catholic Charity Activities 1940.

## Chapter III

### TRAINING

From the beginning it would seem that the Board of Managers, although composed of business men who claimed to be neither teachers nor sociologists, had a fairly clear and correct idea of the type of training that should be given to the boys. The boys sent to St. Mary's were to be educated; and they accepted the word 'Education' in its primary meaning. The regular course of studies was to be an academic one with English as the basis. This was to come first; and at least half of the boys' time was to be devoted to this sort of training. Agricultural pursuits and the trades were of secondary importance, although as much time was to be given to them as to the ordinary scholastic work.

Three generations ago these untrained educators of St. Mary's were able to see what many modern educators can not, namely that a commercial course or an industrial course or an agricultural course is not synonymous with education. They realized that, from the standpoint of true education, hours spent in learning a trade were not the equivalent of the same number of hours spent in the classroom.

"St. Mary's Training School for Boys....has for its object, as its name implies, the instruction and training of youth. It guarantees, unto those entrusted to its care, a good practical English education. It will afford means of imparting knowledge in the various mechanical arts, viz.: Printing, carpentry, painting, tailoring, smithing, shoemaking, or any other industry tending to enhance the prospects of the subject.....Some boys, whose tastes or their parents' or guardians' would incline them, will have an opportunity of becoming skilled farmers; others whose preferences would run in gardening and horticultural employment, will find ample room to

follow their favorite pursuits." Preamble of the Constitution and by-laws."<sup>1</sup>

A committee from the board visited the school monthly during the first years, in order that it might be prepared to report at each meeting concerning the progress being made by the students at St. Mary's. We have already seen one of the reports of the first School Committee. However, a second report of this same Committee, composed of Father Conway, Mr. Rice, and Mr. Bremner, should prove interesting at this point, since it deals more specifically with the educational aims of the Training School.

"The undersigned committee present you the following monthly report. The pupils with the exception of three Indians who were sent home by the advice of a physician, are in excellent health. The boys seemed to be pleased and happy.

"The studies are going on successfully. The discipline is becoming satisfactory. There is more attention being given to some branches of industries which are not however yet in keeping with the aims of the institution. The object of the school, the character of the boys and the place which they will perhaps fill in society render it more advisable that education, industry, and moral direction receive equal attention. A spirit of idleness and indifference to parental authority are prominent causes that some are sent to the Training School. Waywardness immoral and dishonest tendencies and practices are the urgent motives of others being sent there. Some no doubt are sent to the institution chiefly to receive direct training in industries. Manual labor and industrial occupations together with mind culture and moral influence are essential antidotes to restore a healthy condition and to secure well grounded hopes for the future.

"Of the one hundred and ninety-four boys in the institution only seventy-six are according to the spirit of the school industrially employed as follows: six at carpentry, four at cookery, four in the bakery, twelve at shoemaking, twenty at tailoring, and twenty are now and then employed in farm and gardening. Thus it may be seen that one hundred and twenty-two are unemployed, while the farm is in great need of their work and even the smallest boy can be used profitably.

"The Indians, with the exception of three white boys, have been exclusively employed on the farm. It is neither the intention of the Indian Bureau nor this Board to work the Indians exclusively on the farm. More Indians ought to learn trades. They are eminently imitative, and under prudent directions they can become proficient in mechanical arts. Two more Indians might learn baking, four or five carpentry, the same number at shoe-making and tailoring. Thus when the Indians return to the reservations they can receive an encouraging compensation for their labor. Their example will cause others to avail themselves of civilizing influences. They will cheerfully throw off the blanket for a comfortable suit. The frame cottage will take the place of the wigwam. The skill which they observed in the institution will enable them to be tasty and successful farmers on the reservations so that the son of the Red Man can be trained to be a useful factor working out to perfection the civilizing and christianizing privileges which the Government affords him.

"We are reluctantly compelled to express again our regret that the Brothers still refuse to obey the rules in taking the boys to and from the farm and superintend their work thereon. This state of things shall not be tolerated longer.

"It is the intention of the school based upon a necessary expediency that the Brothers should superintend the work of the boys in the field and workshop with the same care as they teach them in the classroom. The boys will thus try to (gain) the favor and avoid the displeasure of the Brothers with whom they are intimately associated and on whom they depend for all that makes life pleasant and profitable within the walls of the institution. This constant supervision will insure greater control over the boys, a unity of action, and establish a stronger and more efficient government.

"It was the original design to constitute the Brother Director Superintendent to pay the help to insure more efficient work and that we look to him and no other for the execution of the work in every department. This is still, we believe, the desire of the Board, providing time, experience, and capability of the Brother Director would warrant you to give him the entire charge.

"The centralizing authority thus may remedy our



continuous and well-founded complaints. We desire to bring this matter to your attention, and we would recommend that the Brother Director be empowered with the sole superintendency of the institution, always under your management, providing he will in good faith live up to the spirit and letter set forth in the by-laws.

"If the Brother Director give evidence of being the efficient man we believe him to be,..... we would recommend the Board to give him general superintendency so that by a unanimity of action and wise direction of Affairs St. Mary's Training will send forth skilled labor and good mechanics, bright minds and pure hearts, men of strong will in right-doing, all of which go to make up the industrious, intelligent, and trustworthy citizen and the thoroughly just and confiding citizen."<sup>2</sup>

In the following years, that is, throughout the remainder of the reign of Archbishop Feehan, when the Board was only meeting annually, the Director of the school made his report at these meetings; but the Minutes tell us on each occasion that the Brother Director gave a very satisfactory report on conditions at the school; and nothing more.

On May 9, 1907 the Board of Trustees decided that the School "should create and equip a complete clothing manufacturing department" but confine its shoe department to shoe repairing and not attempt to manufacture the entire shoe.<sup>3</sup> But on May 11th, when the Board met with the Archbishop the decision was rescinded. Father McCarthy believed that the institution should manufacture the clothing and shoes for the children under its guardianship.<sup>4</sup> Mr. Graham maintained

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<sup>2</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p.p. 104-6

<sup>3</sup>Idem, Vol. III, p. 366

<sup>4</sup>Ibidem

that since the institution was not a reform school, the better course would be to give the children a good education and to forget the manufacturing of clothes and shoes.<sup>5</sup> Mr. Lynch believed manual training to be an essential part of the educational program of the school.<sup>6</sup> Mr. Graham thought the Trustees ought to come to a definite agreement as to whether training along educational lines or trade lines would be for the betterment of the boys.<sup>7</sup> He gave it as his opinion, however, that an education would be better than a trade for the boys at St. Mary's because of the difficulty of obtaining work without membership in a union.

The Archbishop, however, was inclined to yield to what he termed the public demand in manual training at St. Mary's. He said that it was brought up against the school in the juvenile court that there was no manual training at Feehanville. He seemed willing to satisfy the demand of the "superficial public" in regard to establishing a series of shops at the institution wherein boys would be employed for a few hours each day doing something profitable. He said that people going through institutions such as St. Mary's were satisfied if these boys were employed at tasks that seemed profitable and useful. He felt that even boys under the age of 16 years would benefit even from this type training in the various trades. His Grace also stated that shoe repairing and the mending of clothes would be sufficient for the boys at Feehanville, together with some

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<sup>5</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. III, p. 366

<sup>6</sup>Ibidem

<sup>7</sup>Ibidem

training in the machine shop and the engineer's department. He felt also that some of the boys might be employed in the laundry and on the farm. He was emphatic on this point that this manual training was being given merely to satisfy the public demand rather than to teach the boys a trade at which they might support themselves after they left the school.<sup>8</sup>

From these opinions of Archbishop Quigley and the members of the board, we can see how slight was their regard for vocational training and how anxious they were to give the boys at St. Mary's an academic education. In the light of more modern methods of education, which place equal emphasis on vocational and academic training, these opinions are slightly antiquated; but then, we must remember that in comparatively recent times the field of education has been widened to include many things previously not considered within its scope. A generation or two ago education consisted principally in the teaching of those subjects which we today consider cultural, but not profitable. As a rule, the various trades were learned by experience in the shops, under the direction of master craftsmen. The classroom was considered the place for imparting knowledge of the three R's; and a complete education consisted in the knowledge of all that they implied.

It may be of some interest to know the system by which the institution kept a record of those under its care. Although there were many ways by which a boy might be admitted to St. Mary's, the usual one and the one which is most prevalent today, is commitment through the Juvenile Court of Cook County. Upon the arrival of a boy

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<sup>8</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes; Vol. III, p.p. 367-8

(accompanied by the detailed officer and the Warrant and History Sheet) a record is made of the date of entry, the boy's name, age, nationality and the name of the parish he belonged. The boy is then taken to the infirmary where he is bathed and examined by the attending physician. If he is not found to be in satisfactory physical condition, he is kept in the infirmary and treated there until the physician decides he is well enough to enter the institution proper. After being released from the infirmary, he is sent to the Office. A list of boys is sent from the Office to the Senior Prefect who keeps a record of the number and names of the boys in his care, and it is therefore to his advantage not to allow any boy in the yard without a written note from the office. When boys are to go home, be paroled, released or "placed" a written notice is sent to the Senior Prefect stating the boys' names, date and train upon which they are to take their departure. Each day reports are exchanged between the Office and the Senior Prefect pertaining to the arrival and departure of boys, so there is no opportunity to allow records to become incomplete. The register of the institution contains the names of the boys. These are kept numerically, chronologically and alphabetically by means of a card system. The register contains the number which a boy is given for identification when he is admitted, the Warrant number, how admitted (through the Juvenile Court or otherwise), the date of admittance, age, name, father's name, mother's name their addresses, date of departure, whether paroled, released or "placed", and with whom.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes; Vol. VI, p.p. 1716-1717

For convenience in making out the monthly Cook County bill for board and tuition for boys assigned by the Juvenile Court, an index in book form is kept. At a glance each Boy's name, age, date of admittance, etc., can be found in alphabetical order. The Cook County bill is sent each month to the County Comptroller's office. This bill indicates the boys' names, ages, deportment, scholarship, place of employment, the total number of boys, and the amount due for board and tuition for same. A release and return book is also used and this contains the names of the boys who are "placed", paroled, or released and to whom, and of those who return to the institution.<sup>10</sup>

In her report for the year 1915, Sister Mary Geraldine, who at the time was Manager and Treasurer of the School, gives a very thorough account of the educational activities of the children at St. Mary's:

"The course followed during the past year was practically the same as that of former years the program being:-

Rise. . . . .	6:30 A.M.
Morning Prayer	
Breakfast . . . . .	7:30
Recreation . . . . .	8:30
School . . . . .	8:45
Recreation . . . . .	11:30
Dinner . . . . .	12:00 M.
Recreation . . . . .	12:30 P.M.
School . . . . .	1:00
Recreation . . . . .	3:30
Supper . . . . .	5:15
Recreation . . . . .	5:40
Night Prayers . . . . .	7:25
Retire . . . . .	7:30

The pupils from the first to the fourth grades are in school all day; the older boys, from fourth to eighth

<sup>10</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes; Vol. VI, p.p. 1716-1717

grades, inclusive, are in school one-half day, the other half being devoted to vocational training in the various departments, such as the machine shop, bakery, carpenter shop, filter room, greenhouse, laundry, paint shop, power house, printing shop, shoe shop, and tailor shop as well as assisting in the work in the clothesroom, dormitories, infirmary, kitchen, refectories, school and general cleaning.

The younger children recreate from 5:40 until 7:25 P.M. but the older children, from fourth to eighth grades inclusive, have an hour (from 6:25 to 7:25) for study every evening. The course of study is the same as that of all primary and grammar grades in the city.

The school work has been made more interesting by the use of many new reference books, school periodicals and relief maps purchased during the past year. The awarding of a pennant to the classroom holding the highest average in correct spelling has done much towards making the boys have a desire to become perfect in this special line of their class work.

Much pleasure as well as interest is being manifested by the pupils in their eagerness to procure for their class room the trophy used as a Reward of Merit to the classroom averaging the highest in deportment in both classroom and place of employment.

As a matter of information shall submit the following program showing the distribution of time in the lowest and highest grades - the intermediate grades being arranged accordingly.

#### KINDERGARTEN

	9:00	A.M.	Prayer, Good Morning Song
9:10 to	9:30	"	Catechism
9:30 to	9:50	"	Morning circle
9:50 to	10:00	"	Calisthenic Exercises
10:00 to	10:20	"	Gift Period
10:20 to	10:40	"	Marching, Dancing
10:40 to	11:00	"	Singing
	11:00	"	Dismissal
1:00 to	1:10	P.M.	Opening Exercises
1:10 to	1:30	"	Construction Period
1:30 to	1:50	"	Stories
1:50 to	2:00	"	Intermission

2:00 to 2:20 P.M. Rhythm  
 2:20 to 2:35 " Games  
 2:35 to 3:00 " Talk on care of pets, flowers, etc.  
 3:00 " Dismissal

### EIGHTH GRADE

8:15 Study Period  
 8:30 Christian Doctrine  
     Mon., Tues., Wed., Mass (Apr.-June) Bible  
         Hist. (Sept.-Mar.)  
     Thurs., Fri., Exposition of Christ. Doct.,  
         Creed, etc.  
 9:00 Arithmetic  
 9:35 History or Civics  
     History and Civics (Sept.,-Mar.)  
     Geography (Apr.-June)  
 10:10 Spelling  
 10:25 English - Technical or Composition  
 11:00 Study Period - U. S. History (Friday - Singing)  
 11:30 Dismissal

### SEVENTH GRADE

12:45 Study Period  
 1:00 Christian Doctrine  
     Mon., Tuesday, Wed., Bible History  
     Thurs., Fri., Exposition of  
     Christian Doctrine  
 1:30 Arithmetic  
 2:00 History - History (Sept.-Mar.)  
     Geography (Apr.-June)  
 2:30 Spelling  
 2:45 English  
 3:15 Literature or Composition  
     (Friday - Singing)  
 3:45 Study Period - Spelling, History  
 4:20 Dismissal

### STUDY HOUR

6:25 Life of Christ (Mother Loyola)  
 6:45 Study period - Spelling (Sunday - Singing)  
 7:00 Literature  
 7:25 Dormitory

The boys who have graduated and remained at the school are continuing their course in Algebra and Latin and are doing excellent work, showing an unusual ambition and eagerness for higher education."<sup>11</sup>

From the seventh and eighth grade schedules, it can be clearly seen that half of the boys were engaged in study and the other half in vocational work both in the morning and in the afternoon. As the foregoing report indicated, there were many vocational occupations for the boys at St. Mary's during these years. By the time that Archbishop Mundelein came to Chicago (1915) St. Mary's Training School was completely organized with respect to its educational and vocational program. Indeed, prior to that event it has merited high praise from county and state welfare officials and from the judges of the Juvenile Court. The accounts of the educational program of twenty-five years ago show us that the Institution was able to afford to those committed to its care as many advantages as most institutions do today.

The institution employed a baker, who was assisted by eleven of the boys. All the bread, pies and cakes consumed at St. Mary's were made by them.<sup>12</sup> Musical instruction was made available to the students. A school band was organized in 1912, and by 1916 it was composed of some sixty-three pieces. At that time there were two groups for those studying instrumental music - one for beginners, and one for more advanced students. Even in the years immediately following its formation the band gave a good account of itself in public performances, but it was not until 1929 that it won recognition against state-wide competition.<sup>13</sup> Manual training, which a few years before had caused so much consternation among the Trustees of the

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<sup>12</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. XII, p. 4943  
<sup>13</sup>The Marian, I, No. 1, June, 1941.



school had become an integral part of the school's vocational program by 1915. Ten boys at a time worked under the direction of the carpenter, and they were able to put their newly acquired skill to good use in making much needed repairs around the various buildings.<sup>14</sup> Ten boys were regularly employed in the greenhouse during the summer months. There under the supervision of the gardener they gained a knowledge of plant life, which enabled them to render valuable service to the institution in caring for the lawns and in raising flowers for the altar and other decorative purposes.<sup>15</sup>

General repair work was carried on by several hired men and a number of the boys. Plastering, glazing, and many other odd jobs that required attention kept this group well occupied most of the time.<sup>16</sup> The school operated its own laundry; and there twenty-five of the boys worked under the supervision of the two women in charge. Here, too, the boys were not merely used to do the hard work connected with the washing of clothes, but were taught the rudiments of washing and mangle work, the operating and care of all the machinery used, such as washers, tumblers, extractors, and mangles, the mixing of bluing and the making of soap.<sup>17</sup> The printing shop was established at the school through the generosity of the late Monsignor Foley of St. Ambrose Church, who donated two presses and most of the other necessary equipment. The boys who worked in this department learned the trade; and

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<sup>14</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. XII, p. 4943

<sup>15</sup>Idem, p. 4944

<sup>16</sup>Idem

<sup>17</sup>Idem, p. 4945.

the printing shop has been a source of constant revenue to the school, because much of the printing for the various parishes in the archdiocese is done at St. Mary's.<sup>18</sup>

Thirty-seven boys were employed in the shoe repairing department; and these boys were also taught the shoemakers trade. Nearly two thousand pairs of shoes are made each year in this department, and more than eight thousand pairs are repaired here annually. The institution has been able to manufacture them for less than it was formerly able to buy them.<sup>19</sup> Even in the power house and in the machine shop some boys assist the men in charge and consequently learn something of the operations of the various equipment therein contained. Boys are also used to assist the plumbers and electricians in their work.<sup>20</sup> Twenty-eight boys were employed on the farm in the raising of vegetable and in caring for the live stock. Although in its earlier years the farm was a financial loss to the institution, it became in later years, through proper management, a very definite asset.<sup>21</sup>

In 1915 one of the farm buildings was converted into a home for twelve of the older boys. The object was to give these boys the advantages of home life and allow them privileges that could not be given to the younger students. In more recent years, however, since St. Mary's has established its own high school, the older boys have

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<sup>18</sup> St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. XII, p. 4944

<sup>19</sup> Idem, p. 4947

<sup>20</sup> Idem, p. 4948

<sup>21</sup> Ibidem.

their own quarters in the main residence buildings, although they are separated from the dormitories of the younger boys.<sup>22</sup> This was practically the only attempt ever made at St. Mary's at anything like the "Cottage system" that has become accepted within the past few years as the latest and most modern thing in institutional life. St. Mary's experimented with it long before it won high praise from Social Workers at such institutions as the Angel Guardian Orphanage in Chicago and the orphanage at Moosehart, Illinois, operated by the members of that benevolent organization.

Visitors were formerly allowed at St. Mary's on the third Saturday and Sunday of the month. They were obliged to register; and the record of the visitors for each student was kept on file.<sup>23</sup> In those days when transportation facilities were far from the state of perfection to which we have become accustomed in more recent years, when, too, roads were rather primitive compared with our modern highways and superhighways, the authorities of the school undoubtedly permitted the relatives and friends of the children to spend the week-end with them once a month because of this difficulty in travel. More recently the third Sunday of the month was designated as "Visiting Sunday". And today parent, relatives, and friends may visit the children at St. Mary's on the first and third Sunday of each month.

St. Mary's, however, is in no sense a reform school, to which a child is sent for a given number of months or years. Originally the

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<sup>22</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. XII, p. 4947

<sup>23</sup>Idem, p. 4952

distinction between a delinquent child and a dependent child was not very clearly drawn; and the school accepted children of both types. Today its sole purpose is to give a "dependent child" a home and an education until more suitable surroundings can be found for him. As perfect as St. Mary's is in every respect, all those engaged in child welfare work readily admit that the place for any child is in a home. When applications are received to take a child from the school into a private home, the applicants are thoroughly investigated, in order that those in charge of the institution may be certain that the child will be in the proper domestic atmosphere. In these times, with the various denominations much better organized with respect to their charitable activities than they were fifty or sixty years ago, only Catholic children, except under very unusual circumstances, are accepted at St. Mary's. Consequently, when a child from the school is to go into a private home, that home must thoroughly Catholic. Not only must the prospective foster-parents both be Catholics; but they must be practical Catholics; they must receive the Sacraments frequently; they should preferably belong to the sodalities and societies sponsored by their parish. And naturally they must be able to care for the child properly with regard to the physical and material aspects of life. And until the pastor of the parish in which the prospective-foster-parents live, affirms these facts concerning them, the priests in charge of the Home Bureau will not permit a child at St. Mary's or any other Catholic orphanage to be placed in a foster home.

While the child is in the foster-home he is visited twice a year by the school Visitor, who then reports on the boy, the home,

and the people with whom he lives. Whenever conditions are not satisfactory, the child is transferred to another home or returned to St. Mary's.<sup>24</sup> The various investigations with regard to the suitability of foster-homes, the investigations of the applications desiring to give a home to a child from St. Mary's, the visitation of the proposed foster home, and the other details involved, which were formerly a part of the responsibility of the authorities of the institution, are now taken care of by the Catholic Home Bureau.

The excellence of the training given the children at St. Mary's may be judged by this letter sent to Father Doran some years ago by Miss Amelia Sears, head of the Bureau of Public Welfare, Cook County:

"Each member of the party that visited Feehanville Tuesday, April 6, has told me not only what a delightful reception was given them, but also how happily impressed they were with the complete equipment and the infinite pains taken to insure the best physical condition for everyone of the children in St. Mary's Training School and the Chicago Industrial School.<sup>25</sup>

"When we planned the trip, I anticipated I would be able to accompany the party and I later discovered I had to leave Chicago two hours earlier than I expected for an afternoon engagement. Mr. Byrne and I figured it out that I could accompany the party to Desplaines and have about twenty-five minutes to visit the institution, but, as possibly they told you, after arriving there, I had to turn around and go back to Chicago.

"I was greatly disappointed at losing the opportunity of visiting the institutions and if it would not be asking too much, would hope to come out there at some future date. I appreciate the work which is being done for dependent children through your institutions.

<sup>24</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. XII, p. 4952

<sup>25</sup>The Chicago Industrial School is the legal title of the girls school at Feehanville. Its origin will be explained in the following chapter.

Office, and Clara Harrison Town, Ph.D., former psychologist of the Lincoln State School and Colony. I am writing for all of them to ask that you accept their thanks for a very happy day and also that you extend their gratitude to Sister Mary Geraldine. 26

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<sup>26</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. XII, p. 4920.

## Chapter IV

### EXPANSION

The growth of St. Mary's may be considered in a two fold way; in the first place, as regards the physical improvements and additions; and secondly, with regard to the number of children, and ever-increasing number, that found sanctuary within its walls. It may be said that the latter naturally brought about the former, although certain extrinsic events also affected the expansion of the school.

From the time that the corner stone of the first building at Feehanville was laid on October 8, 1882, until the time of the vast building (or re-building) program in the early years of the twentieth century, little is mentioned in the reports of the Trustees concerning the actual edifices of the institution. This building program, which was delayed until 1905 (by the death of Archbishop Feehan, the interregnum, the reorganization of the Board under Archbishop Quigley, the impracticability of the Pashley plans and his lawsuit "for services rendered") was caused primarily by a fire which destroyed the first buildings of St. Mary's Training School on October, 1899. In his report to the Board on December 31, 1915, Mr. Lynch quotes the "Suburban Times" (a newspaper published at Desplaines) in whose pages on October 21, 1899, was a full account of the fire at the school:

"Feehanville, the home of the Roman Catholic Reform School, situated just a short distance north of our village, was the scene of the most disastrous fire ever witnessed in this vicinity last Sunday afternoon.

"The news of the conflagration was received by residents of this place shortly after two o'clock, and immediately the town was wild with excitement. Everybody seemed to be on their way to the scene of the fire, some on foot, others on bicycles and in carriages.

"The first one to discover the fire was J. H. Niggel, who was driving with his wife, and was just passing the institution when he saw flames creeping from the outer edge of chapel building. He gave the alarm and soon the hurry of Desplaines residents started, headed by Commissioner Hoffman, closely followed by Chief Cook, A. H. Jones, A. H. Imig, Wm. Wicke, B. H. Winkelman, and others, all of whom did herculean work in the suppression of danger and want to the youngsters. In fact everybody did valiant service. The "Indians" saved the horses, B. Lagershausen was tireless in his work, and we could go on in mention of people who deserve great credit, but space forbids. Mr. Kelly the head gardener, was busy as a bee trying to assist the youngsters and everyone who wanted a "lift". To him a great deal of credit is due. "Gus" Jones was busy as a hired man, and Commissioner Hoffman, he who is always a prominent figure in time of want or distress, gained the plaudits of all by his immediate conception of the situation and displayed commendable efforts to make the boys as comfortable as possible. He went down in his purse for funds to appease the appetites of hundreds of homeless boys and besides got but little sleep that night owing to his efforts to find temporary homes for the boys on Monday morning.

"The loss estimated in money is fully "\$150,000, with insurance of \$60,000." That does not indicate, however, the injury which the destruction will cause in turning so many half-reformed lads loose or sending them to crowd still more thickly the other already crowded schools.

"The summer residence of Archbishop Feehan, standing a couple of hundred feet south, and the handsomest sight at Feehanville, was untouched by the fire. The origin of the fire is simple. An overturned candle in the sacristy of the chapel, a south wind, no water, and the entire ruination of a dozen or more immense buildings followed.

"The Chapel, a wooden structure, with a seating capacity of several hundred, was one of the oldest buildings on the grounds, having been erected some fourteen years ago, the expense of the same being paid for by Conrad Seipp. The structure being of wood, the flames made rapid headway. Some of the altar furniture was rescued but little else.



"Chief Cook arrived and took charge of the operations against the flames before any buildings except the chapel and the wing of the main building immediately adjoining had been touched. He quickly connected his hose with the fire plugs, but when he gave the orders to turn on the water there was not stream enough to fill the hose. A skirmish for water was not successful, and he contented himself with keeping the crowds back from the walls and sending his men to help carry out the contents of the buildings.

"The whole neighborhood was black with people sprung from no one could tell whither, and the country road was blocked with wagons and buggies.

"The strong south wind showed its power for evil. Shingles from the chapel roof and little coals and brands were carried high in the air and fell on the frame buildings and granaries at the north end of the grounds. Soon these were ablaze and the work of the firemen and employes was directed to removing the cattle and horses, all of which they got out in safety. The corn and grain and wagons were all lost however.

"Brother Elixus says very little of the school's equipment was saved. That in the manual training department was valuable, and this loss will amount to thousands of dollars. Among the valuables lost in the house was the model of the statue of Archbishop Feehan, made of alabaster, and which stood in the chapel. This was the original model after which the statue that was exhibited at the world's fair was copied. The latter is now in possession of St. Patrick's Academy in this city. Many paintings of more or less value were also destroyed. The insurance is \$60,000.

#### HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL

"St. Mary's Training School was established sixteen years ago under the supervision of the Roman Catholic Church. Years of labor on the part of those in charge rendered beautiful its 900 acres of pasture and cultivated ground, diversified them with lawns and driveways and erected a collection of substantial buildings well adapted for the purpose in view. The principal aim of the institution in connection with a sound moral training, was to instruct the boys in farm and dairy work, the handling of stock and the propagation of flowers. Shop work was not neglected and class room exercises were

rigidly enforced every school day of the year. The farm was worked almost entirely by the boys. The institution was devoted principally to the reformation of truants. Although supported by members of the Roman Catholic Church, all creeds were accepted at the school.

"The present director and superintendent of the school is Brother Elixus, and the prodirector and inspector of classes is Brother Dovation. The resident chaplain is Rev. John Linden, and the attending physician is C. A. Earle. Brother Elixus is assisted in his work by Brother Leontine, who came to the school from New York last April. The Institution is under the supervision of a board of managers consisting of thirty members. The officers of the board of managers are:

"President ex-officio, Most Rev. P. A. Feehan; President, James H. Burke; first vice-president, Peter Conlan; second vice-president, Michael Sullivan; secretary and treasurer, Rev. N. J. Mooney.

"Nearly 200 boys were maintained at the school gratuitously at a per capita of \$75 a year. This caused an outlay of nearly \$15,000 on the part of the school for which no equivalent was received.

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"TO THE EDITOR:

"The Brothers in charge of St. Mary's Training School return sincere thanks to the fire department and residents of the village of Desplaines for the timely aid rendered by them in helping to save the property of the institution during the late fire, and also for their contributions of eatables and drinkables in behalf of the sufferers.

"Particular gratitude is due to commissioner Hoffman for his efficient supervision of the same.

"With best wishes to all,

Yours gratefully,

Brother Leontine, Supt.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. XII, p.p. 4906-9

Some statistics with regard to the enrollment of boys in the school seem necessary at this juncture in order to understand and appreciate the rapid expansion of the school. On February 13, 1884,<sup>2</sup> it is recorded that there were 121 boys and 51 indians (there is nothing to indicate whether the 51 indians were over and above the 21 boys or whether they were part of them). On May 14, 1884, a more complete account of the boys of the school is given: At that date there were 72 boys whose parents were paying at that date there were 72 boys whose parents were paying at least a part of their tuition; there were 29 boys who may be classed as charity cases; and 23 boys were sent to the school by the County - A total enrollment of 194 boys (including indians).<sup>3</sup> By January 1, 1897, there were 357 boys enrolled at St. Mary's, of which 249 were received during that year and 243 were "given out".<sup>4</sup> The records of the school show that there were 235 boys on the First of January, 1903, of which 169 were sent to the Institution by Cook County.<sup>5</sup> The decrease in the number of boys at the school was undoubtedly due to the fact that many had to be sent to other institutions. A very small number could be received in the years during which the buildings of the institution were being rebuilt. Between the years 1907 and 1915 the enrollment increased from some 425 boys in the former year to 610 in the latter.<sup>6</sup>

The doors of St. Mary's were open to children of all nation-

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<sup>2</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. XII, p.p. 4906-9

<sup>3</sup>Idem, p. 99

<sup>4</sup>Idem, p. 160

<sup>5</sup>Ibidem

<sup>6</sup>Idem, p. 4715.

alities, all creeds, and all races. This fact is amply illustrated in the 698 boys who were cared for at Feehanville during the year 1906.

German	86
Italian	104
Bohemian	96
Polish	103
Jewish	5
Irish	147
Negro	4
Slavonian	42
Canadian	22
American	68
Persian	1
Scotch	8
	<hr/> 698

After deciding that a certain amount of manual training was to be a necessary part of the program at St. Mary's, the trustees obtained the services of several men competent to advise them with regard to the installation of different types of equipment. After obtaining the opinions of experts from several laundry companies as to the location of the laundry of the school, it was decided to use the west room on the ground floor of the North Class and Dormitory building for this purpose.<sup>7</sup> The shoe repairing department was located in this section of the institution; and it was decided to have a place for the repairing of clothes in this same room. A printing press was also installed in this room; and the lathe and all other machinery which formerly had been in the basement of the old laundry building were moved into the southeast corner of the Ground Floor, adjacent to the laundry.<sup>8</sup> The greenhouse, where the boys studied plant life was located on the South Farm - which today is All Saints Cemetery. Although these grounds are

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<sup>7</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. XII, p.p. 428-9.

<sup>8</sup>Idem, Vol. III, p.p. 414-5.

no longer apart of St. Mary's, the boys still work in the greenhouse under the direction of the gardener.

On May 29, 1907, Mr. Lynch wrote to the Archbishop concerning the progress of the building at St. Mary's.

"We have practically completed the North Wing and Dormitory, the North Toilet Room, the Dining Hall and the Kitchen and Servants' Quarters. In the present quarters we can properly care for 800 boys, in one half the area contemplated under the Pashley plans. In the present plant we have sufficient boiler, engine, electric, refrigerating, water, dining room, kitchen, and servants quarters capacity for taking care of 800 boys and as many girls, and all we require now in the way of buildings is the construction of the South Wing to house the girls."<sup>9</sup>

The breaking of ground for the erection of the South Class and Dormitory Building took place on August 24, 1909.<sup>10</sup> The year 1911 was a momentous one in the history of St. Mary's, because it was in this year that the Chicago Industrial School and two other smaller orphanages for girls were combined with the St. Mary's Training School for Boys. The Chicago Industrial School for Girls was the most important and possibly the largest of these girls schools. It was originally located at 4910 Prairie Avenue before being transferred to Desplaines. That address is today the location of the Illinois Technical School for Colored Girls. The Chicago Industrial School took care of older girls. It has its own Board of Trustees composed of prominent Catholic men and women of the city. It received its charter from the State of Illinois in 1883. The president of the Board, before its juncture with St.

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<sup>9</sup> St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. III, p.p. 414-5.

<sup>10</sup> Idem, Vol. XII, p. 4915.

Mary's was Mr. Charles A. Mair, who the reader may remember was also one of the original trustees of the Training School. The other members of the original Industrial School Board were Mrs. Charles A. Mair, Mr. and Mrs. David F. Bremner, Miss Adelaide Walsh, Miss Joan Fortune, Judge and Mrs. Edward O. Brown, Dr. and Mrs. James L. Reilly, Mr. A. W. Green, Miss Alice Moran, Mrs. Roswell Smith, Judge Hurley (who is considered by some to be the founder of the Juvenile Court of Cook County), Dr. Anna Dwyer; Mrs. D. F. Bremner II was Secretary of the board. The younger girls came from St. Joseph's Home for the Friendless, which was located at 35th Street and Lake Avenue. Another group of girls came from St. Joseph's Provident Asylum at 40th (now Crawford Avenue) and Belmont. This institution is today the Epheta School for the Deaf and Dumb. The union of these girls schools with St. Mary's brought to reality a long cherished dream of Archbishop Quigley; he saw that something ought to be done to keep the boys and girls of the same family together so that family ties might be kept intact. The juncture of St. Mary's Training School and the Chicago Industrial School was the answer to this problem. At St. Mary's the boys and girls lived in different sections of the huge residence hall, they had separate classrooms and recreation yards. Consequently, though under the same roof, the brothers and sisters saw very little of each other in the ordinary course of daily duties, so a special time was set aside every week when members of the same family had to visit together. Legally the Chicago Industrial School for Girls is a separate unit in no way connected with St. Mary's Training School. But practically the girls' school had lost its entity and been absorbed by St. Mary's

Training School. The Superintendent of St. Mary's is also Superintendent of the Chicago Industrial School. But the girls' school still has its own Board of Trustees of which Mrs. Cushman Bissell is the President. The other members of the Board are Mr. Cushman Bissell, Miss Alice Moran, Mr. and Mrs. Bolton Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. George Fiedler, Mr. and Mrs. E. K. McDonald, Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Gallagher, Miss Marie Plamondon, and Mrs. James L. Reilly. The principal "training" of the girls has been along domestic lines, namely, cooking, sewing and housekeeping, but in keeping with modern trends commercial courses and beauty culture have been included in their curricula.

The length of time that was required for the construction of the buildings of St. Mary's seems extraordinary to us, but it must be remembered that then as now, there were labor difficulties, things with which we are not unfamiliar today. And, in this case a special difficulty arose namely, the inability to get men to work at Feehanville because of its remoteness. A boarding house had to be erected at the school for workmen. There was also difficulty in procuring material. The sewerage water system and the heating plant installed for the buildings as formerly planned were totally inadequate for the new buildings. The residence of the late Archbishop was converted into a hospital, and office and living rooms for the superintendent. This building had been erected by Mr. Pashley and was found to be of the poorest construction - a conclusive proof of his inability as an architect.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. II, p. 143.

Although the huge building operations were completed in the early years of the present century, there remained a great amount of incomplete construction work such as cement walks, mosaic tile flooring, improvements in plumbing, and installation of sanitary drinking cups, the outer playground for the boys, the playground for the girls, with the erection of the necessary equipment, new water supply lines consisting of a large reservoir at the river bank, pump pit with a pump capable of delivering 100 gallons of water per hour, as well as the erection of the 100,000 gallon steel tower tank. A new dairy barn with modern equipment and a horse barn were erected.<sup>12</sup>

In more recent years improvements were made in the manual training department and better facilities were provided for recreation and amusement. With regard to this latter, the most recently constructed building on the grounds is the John P. Hopkins Memorial Auditorium. It might be of interest to relate the fact that the auditorium, built at a cost of nearly \$200,000, was erected during the superintendency of Father Collins and may be said to be the direct result of his priestly zeal. While he was an assistant at St. James, Father Collins was called upon to administer the Last Sacraments to Mr. John Hopkins, who was seriously ill at that time. The members of the family were so impressed by the kindness of Father Collins that they wished to express their gratitude to him in some material way; but it was not until some years later that he suggested a way in which they might do this and at the same time perform a work of charity. When he became superintendent of

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<sup>12</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. XII, p. 4917.



of St. Mary's he saw that the one building lacking was a gymnasium, properly equipped and sufficiently large to take care of the winter activities of the children. And it was at his suggestion the family made this donation which enabled the Archdiocese erect this building. It is in reality a double gymnasium, one part of which is used by the boys and the other for the girls. The girls' gymnasium also has a stage. On the second floor of this building there is a small clubroom, a projection room for movies, which in recent years have become a regular entertainment feature.

The grounds at St. Mary's provide ample room for such sports as football, baseball, and ice skating. The enrollment in more recent years has averaged approximately 800 children, which figure includes an equal number of girls and boys. The school has never come close to the enrollment of 1600 children envisioned by Mr. Lynch many years ago, because it has kept abreast of modern improvements in institutional life; and more ample living quarters are considered appropriate for the child in an institution today than were considered necessary a generation or two ago. In keeping with modern institutional methods and with the size of the buildings at St. Mary's the number of children cared for has been kept down as much as possible. Undoubtedly the institution would probably today have an enrollment in excess of 1600 children if everyone who applied for admittance was accepted, but the authorities of the Charity Bureau wisely consider it best to do a good job of taking care of a smaller number rather than to bring the institution into disrepute by allowing it to become overcrowded.

## Chapter V

### FINANCES

It is a well-known adage that "Money makes the world go around". In the same degree money is the "sine qua non" of charity, and of charitable institutions in particular. Orphans must be housed, clothed, and fed; and the accepted medium of exchange for the necessities of life, no matter how noble the undertaking nor how high the ideals of the individuals, is still money. As has been mentioned in the second chapter, there was no real organization of charity in Chicago until the advent of Cardinal Mundelein. This, however, should not be understood in the sense that there were no charitable organizations whatsoever. There were many Catholic organizations whose principal object was the care of the poor, the destitute, and the dependent. Chief among these was, and is today, the St. Vincent de Paul Society. But it cannot be said that care for the poor was organized on a diocesan scale before Cardinal Mundelein became Archbishop of Chicago. The means at the disposal of an individual organization for charity depended solely on the ingenuity of the members of that organization in arousing charitable inclinations in persons able to contribute substantially to their cause.

We have already seen (in Chapter I) the principal plans evolved by the Trustees to raise the money needed to erect the first building at Feehanville. Their successors up to the time of the establishment of the Catholic Charities of the archdiocese were concerned chiefly with keeping St. Mary's financially solvent. When the Board of Trustees reorganized in 1883 under the second charter,

the treasury consisted of \$243.88,<sup>1</sup> and it was thought necessary to give the Brother Director two hundred dollars a month for current expenses. Contracts amounting to nearly \$9700 were let in October 1883.<sup>2</sup> Consequently, the institution was again on the verge of a financial crisis.

To restore the corporation to solvency several propositions were discussed by the Trustees, and it was finally resolved:

"That the President and Secretary be and they are hereby authorized to issue 30 notes of \$500 each, payable on or before December 31, 1885, without interest, to provide for the erection and furnishing of the "Round House" and steamheating thereof and that the monies due and to become due from the United States for the education and care of Indian boys at the school are hereby pledged for the payment of the same, said notes to be numbered consecutively and paid as drawn by lot whenever and as soon as any funds are on hand for the purpose."<sup>3</sup>

These notes were entirely subscribed for by the various members of the Board, even including the Archbishop.

The financial report for the year ending December 31, 1883, shows the receipt of some \$29,000. This amount came from tuition, the sale of livestock, the sale of goods made in the workshop, the celebration attendant upon the laying of the cornerstone and the dedication of the school, and donations from His Grace, the Archbishop, and from other individuals. The expenses of this year almost equaled the receipts: they resulted from the erection of the North and South

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<sup>1</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p. 74.

<sup>2</sup>Idem, p. 75

<sup>3</sup>Idem, p.p. 80-81

Wings of the building, the purchase of farm implements and livestock, the purchase, repair, and alterations of machinery and tools for the workshop, the furnishings of the school, the clothing of the children, the salaries of the employees, and the interest on the notes.<sup>4</sup>

The work of the Trustees at St. Mary's had received sufficient publicity to arouse the interest of many people and to bring many offers of assistance. The most interesting of these offers, and undoubtedly the most humorous, was one made by Major Newel, who sought the consent of the Board to bring out Sitting Bull and exhibit him for part benefit to the corporation. This offer was referred to Brother Teliow, who was instructed to confer with Mr. McLaughlin, the Indian agent.<sup>5</sup> In the records of the school we find no further mention of this incident; and, therefore, it may be presumed that the Trustees did not avail themselves of it.

On December 10, 1899, a special meeting of the Board was held in the St. Vincent de Paul room at Cass Street and Chicago Avenue to discuss the financial status of St. Mary's. Father Muldoon stated that the priests of the archdiocese had promised to raise \$100,000 and that this meeting had been called to discuss plans for raising a similar amount. Father Kelly suggested that the Board call a meeting, to which would be invited about one hundred and fifty people who might be willing to donate one hundred or one hundred and fifty dollars each. He promised to furnish a list of those whom he thought would give that

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<sup>1</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p. 88

<sup>2</sup>Idem, p. 85

amount. The members of the Board were in favor of calling this meeting as soon as possible, and they felt sure that it would be successful. Father Muldoon told the members of the Board to suggest the names of any persons whom they thought would pledge even smaller amounts. Father Kelly thought that if the meeting was held at the Palmer House, Potter Palmer would very likely contribute one thousand dollars. Father Flanagan believed that the raising of one hundred thousand or one hundred and fifty thousand dollars would not be a very difficult task. It was decided that the meeting would be held on the following Sunday afternoon at the Palmer House; and the secretary was instructed to notify the members of the Board and also to invite the officers of the Catholic organizations and of the various Irish organizations in the city, because it was felt that their cooperation would be extremely useful in obtaining the Board's objective.<sup>6</sup> The particular reason for the raising of this quarter of a million dollars was the fact that just six weeks previously the school had been destroyed by fire.

Although it would be impossible in a treatise of this size and altogether unnecessary in a treatise of this type to give a complete accounting of the finances of the school from year to year, this chapter will include a few of the annual reports on the finances of the institution. The statement for the year ending December 31, 1903, shows that the receipts of the institution amounted to \$42,500. Most of this amount consisted of donations by the Archbishop and money

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<sup>6</sup> St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p.p. 164-165

paid by Cook County. The expenses for that year were slightly more than \$42,000, in which the largest items were \$10,000 for sustenance, \$5,000 for coal, lumber and oil, \$5,000 wages, \$4,000 for supplies for the tailor and shoe shops, and \$3,300 in salaries to the Christian Brothers.<sup>7</sup> In January, 1904, the essential additions, alterations and repairs at St. Mary's Training School had been completed; and the architects, Egan and Prindeville, submitted to Archbishop Quigley a bill for \$41,335.00 for the work done. This sum included the separate bills of the general contractor, the plumbing contractor, the steamfitters, the electricians and the interior decorators.<sup>8</sup>

The gigantic building program was begun in 1905. The contracts of stone, carpentry, masonry, steel, tile, roofing, plumbing, concrete, plastering, painting and glazing were let. The architect stated that the total cost would be approximately \$270,000.<sup>9</sup> The Archbishop deposited \$73,000 in the National Bank of the Republic for the construction of the South Wing and Dormitory.<sup>10</sup> In a financial statement issued by the board on February 12, 1907, the St. Mary's Training School building fund is shown to have received various sums during the previous year and a half, amounting to \$417,000. Most of the money was advanced by the Archbishop.<sup>11</sup> The expenses during this period amounted to \$377,000. This sum included the general construction work and the many lesser improvements and repairs.<sup>12</sup> The institution was insured

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<sup>7</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. I, p. 187

<sup>8</sup>Idem, p. 189

<sup>9</sup>Idem, Vol. II, p. 22.

<sup>10</sup>Idem, p. 31

<sup>11</sup>Idem, p.p. 147-148

<sup>12</sup>Idem, p.p. 149-150

for \$380,000 or 80% of the value of the buildings above the basement.

Mr. Lynch, besides his general duties as acting President of the Board from 1904-07, was also in charge of the finances of the school. Since he was president of the National Bank of the Republic he was especially well qualified to do this sort of work. He employed the Security Audit Company in 1907 to compile a monthly statement of income and expense for both the school and the farm.<sup>13</sup> These monthly financial statements with which the records of the school are replete, are both minute and comprehensive and reflect credit on the precision with which Mr. Lynch conducted the school's business. His interest in this work is nowhere more clearly shown than in his first annual report to the trustees on February 16, 1907.<sup>14</sup>

"I trust that each member present realized the magnitude and the significance of this charity we have in hand, and that each will do his utmost to aid in bringing the organization to that high degree of efficiency which its purpose and scope demand, and which alone can enable it to achieve that full measure of success as an instrument of true helpfulness which we all desire. To accomplish this a more general and widespread interest in the work should be aroused, and I hope that each member will feel it both his duty and his privilege to awakening his friends' appreciation for what has been done and wish to cooperate to some extent in the much that yet remains to be accomplished. Every little helps and even a very small sum given by one who will not be seriously inconvenienced by the giving will do more than he has any idea of towards helping those who have nothing. An annual subscription of \$5.00 for instance will pay for one boy's clothing for one year, and even this trifling amount if multiplied by the number of those present on this occasion, would be of untold benefit to the institution and its charges.

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<sup>13</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. II, p. 167

<sup>14</sup>Idem, p.p. 164-165

I, therefore, urge that each of you individually start a subscription list and prevail upon as many of your friends as possible to pledge their assistance in this good cause to the extent of at least \$5.00 annually. - - - - I make this appeal to the present members feeling assured of their hearty response, and when the Archbishop returns from Europe, I shall suggest to him that he request all the clergymen throughout the diocese to make an earnest appeal to each member of his parish - men, women and children - to become members of St. Mary's Training School, pointing out to them that if each one will contribute ye arly the very small sum of 25¢, it will add to our expense fund \$250,000 annually; in fact this amount in hand would not only enable us to pay all the expenses of maintaining the school but would permit us also to pay off the mortgage and extend this noble charity to much larger proportions. It is not necessary, however, to await the Archbishop's return before making a beginning along this line and I recommend that the members present do what they can at once in the way of starting a movement of this kind. Philanthropy is an active not a passive virtue and each one who identifies himself with any charitable undertaking must of necessity assume in some degree the responsibility it imposes. Only those who have actively engaged in "salvage" work of this sort, can have any conception of what it involves - of the devotion of time and of thought and of energy it demands. On this score I can speak with the authority of experience."<sup>15</sup>

The principal sources of income, outside of donations by the Archbishop by the funds of the Archdiocese, were the tuition paid by the various counties of Northern Illinois, whose courts have committed the children to St. Mary's, and the tuition paid by individuals for relatives who were being cared for at the school. In later years the various shops at the school, particularly the printing shop, proved to be excellent sources of income. The farm was and is an asset to the

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<sup>15</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. II, p.p. 164-165



school, because it provides fresh vegetables, butter, eggs, and milk for the institution at a price below which the school would have to pay at a regular market. However, for a few years after Mr. Lynch became a member of the board the farm was more of a liability than of an asset. In his report for the year 1910 Mr. Lynch complained bitterly of the fact that during the year 1906 the farm, through mismanagement, showed a loss of \$5,000. He contrasted this loss on the farm at St. Mary's with the report on the farm and hothouse at the Angel Guardian Orphanage, which for that same year showed a profit of over \$8,000. Which sum paid the salaries for the year of the physician, dentist, secretary, pastor, engineer and sisters.<sup>16</sup>

Archbishop Quigley thought that \$36,000 a year should be sufficient for the operating expenses of the school. This was in 1907. At this time the school was receiving \$18,000 annually from Cook County. The Archbishop promised an annual donation of \$12,000. His Grace said that he felt the Superintendent should be able to raise the difference, namely, \$6,000.<sup>17</sup> Yet the total cost of maintenance for that year 1907 was \$68,000. In the year 1909 the cost of maintenance was \$44,000 and this was the closest that it ever approached to the figure anticipated by Archbishop Quigley. In the year 1906 the institution cared for 421 children at the cost of \$101.26 per child. The average cost per boy per month, including extraordinary expenses, ranged from \$8.00 in 1909 to nearly \$14.00 in 1914.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>16</sup>St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, Vol. III, p. 466.

<sup>17</sup>Idem, Vol. II, p. 239

<sup>18</sup>Idem, Vol. XII, p. 4981

When Mr. Lynch became a member of the Board of Trustees in 1904 the value of the land and buildings at Feehanville was approximately \$291,000. After the completion of the rebuilding program including the erection of the South Wing and Dormitory for the girls, the investment at St. Mary's amounted to over a million dollars. In recent years the average annual cost of maintenance is \$200,000. Approximately half of this sum is the result of direct income to the school from the shops and farm, the other half is received from the Catholic Charity Bureau.

The effort and ability required to create and successfully manipulate the finances of St. Mary's in such a way that the corporation would always remain solvent demanded prudent and capable financiers. Therefore, this chapter would scarcely be completed without some further mention of the Trustees, the financiers of the School. Their position was unique, because, according to Mr. Bremner (one of the present Trustees of St. Mary's) it was the first time that the Bishop of Chicago had called upon the Catholic laymen of the city for service of this type. The Executive Board of the Catholic Charities, established by Archbishop Mundelein, is of the same pattern, but of a later date. The men selected by Archbishop Feehan to establish the St. Mary's Training School Corporation sixty years ago were exemplary Catholic citizens and eminently successful business and professional men. Both qualities were necessary in each of the Trustees, if he were to be of value to the institution. The men who, with the passing of the years, have succeeded to the places of the original Trustees were and are men of the same caliber. The Trustees of St. Mary's,

past and present, may well serve as examples for the Catholic business men and professional men of the present and future generations. They never compromised their Faith or their Church by their actions in the business. They were outstanding Catholics and distinguished Chicagoans; and their watchword was the keystone virtue of Christianity - Charity.

To give even a brief biography of each of the financiers of St. Mary's would expand this treatise to twice its present length. And that would be unnecessary, and, moreover, incorrect, since it would result in the over-emphasizing of individuals in a work which purports to be a history of an institution. By the way of example, however, we may pay direct tribute to some of the early Trustees of the school by including sketches of their lives and by so doing indirectly honor the many others who were associated with them in this work of charity. One of the first men selected by Archbishop Feehan to be a Trustee was Justice Daniel Scully. He was born in New York in 1839 but the family moved to McHenry County, Illinois when Daniel was two years of age; and he spent his boyhood on a farm near Woodstock. He graduated from St. Mary's College (the University of St. Mary of the Lake) and from the Union College of Law in Chicago. In 1871 he was appointed Justice of the Peace; and for ten years he was in charge of the West Side Police Court. Many an unfortunate caught in the toils of the law had Judge Scully to thank for lenient treatment and a light sentence. Judge Scully was also active in the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He died in 1894 and was buried from St. Malachy's Church.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>19</sup>The New World, September 22, 1894.

Another of the original members of the Board and one whose name has been connected with the School for more than half of its existence is William A. Amberg. He was born in Albstadt, Bavaria on July 6, 1847. Nevertheless he was legally a "natural born citizen" of the United States, for his father, John A. Amberg, had come to America in 1840 and become a naturalized citizen before returning to Bavaria where he married Margaret Hoefler in 1845. The elder Amberg brought his family to America in 1851 and eventually settled at Mineral Point, Wisconsin, where young William received his early education in the local schools. Later he attended Sinsinawa Mound College in the same state. At the age of eighteen he came to Chicago and found employment as a bookkeeper in the firm of Culver, Page, and Hoyne, Stationers. Five years later, in 1870, he began his business career in partnership with Daniel R. Cameron. The firm of Cameron, Amberg and Company manufactured and sold stationary and blank books.

Mr. Amberg's first job in Chicago so intrigued him that he decided to make it his life's work. His inventive mind led him to produce various office accessories for the use of his stationary. In 1868 he received the original patent for "a letter holder, file, and binder" and later patented the improvements made on the original device. He is acknowledged to be the originator of the modern "flat letter" indexing system. Although the sale of his file index system was carried on by the Cameron, Amberg Company in the beginning, it grew to such proportions that in 1890 he organized the Amberg File and Index Company, which was devoted entirely to the exploitation of his patents. The growth of the business made it necessary to estab-

lish offices in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, and London, England, although the main offices remained in Chicago.

He is credited with the founding of the Town of Amberg in the State of Wisconsin, where he became a pioneer in the granite industries. The Loretto Iron Mine at Loretto, Michigan was another of his successful business ventures. Though disinclined to the turmoil of political life, he did accept the post of Jury Commissioner in 1907. He brought to his duties in this regard his native ability and energy and was so successful that he was unanimously approved for reappointment two years later. In 1869 he married Sarah Agnes Ward, and this union was blessed by a son, John Ward Amberg, and two daughters, Mary Agnes and Genevieve. He was one of the founders of the Union Catholic Library Association in 1868 and served as its president for four terms. Later he devoted his energy to the Columbus Club, which was an outgrowth of the Library Association, and he was president of the Club from 1892 to 1896. Besides his duties as a Trustee of St. Mary's he was much interested in the Guardian Angel Settlement (since 1921 known as the Madonna Center) which was, and still is, managed by his daughter, Miss Mary Agnes Amberg. He died on September 5, 1918. The funeral services took place in the Holy Name Cathedral. Bishop Dunn of Peoria celebrated the Pontifical Requiem Mass in the presence of Archbishop Mundelein on September 9, 1918.<sup>20</sup>

Still another of the original group of Trustees was Patrick J. Healy, who was born in County Cork, Ireland, on March 17, 1840.

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<sup>20</sup> Illinois Catholic Historical Review, October, 1918  
William A. Amberg by Rev. Claude J. Pernin, S. J.

He was the thirteenth child born to his parents; and his father was seventy-five years of age at the time of Patrick's birth. The family finally gave up the struggle against poverty and came to America in 1850 and settled in Boston. His parents were determined to give Patrick, their youngest child, all the advantages of education which were impossible in Ireland; but young Patrick was equally determined to go to work in order that his parents' declining years might be made as easy as possible. So at the age of fourteen he became an errand boy at Reed's Music Store in Boston; and two years later he was a full-fledged clerk. Here, again, as in the case of Mr. Amberg, his first job started young Patrick Healy on a distinguished business career. In 1864 Oliver Ditson, the music publisher, sent for Mr. Healy and his fellow-clerk, Mr. Lyon, and told them that he would give them their choice of three cities, Chicago, St. Louis, and San Francisco, in which to open a music store with his backing. Mr. Healy chose Chicago. And so the great music house of Lyon and Healy was born.

In 1863 Healy married Mary Griffith; and of the children sent to bless this union three sons, James, Raymond, and Paul survived. Mrs. Healy died in 1877. Five years later, in 1882, Mr. Healy married Miss Frances Hannan; they had eight children, of whom all but one survived. The second Mrs. Healy died in 1899.

The great fire of 1871 destroyed nearly all the business houses of Chicago, including Lyon and Healy; but this was no new experience for this firm, because the year before the building in which their store was located was destroyed by fire. So twice within a year the partners and their employees were obliged to start anew. Many of the business houses of Chicago had all their insurance with

local firms, and after the fire these were as bankrupt as the companies they insured. So wise were the investments of Lyon and Healy that they realized eighty-five per cent of the value of their property from their insurance. Though Mr. Lyon was the senior partner by virtue of seniority of age, Mr. Healy seems to have been the real genius behind the business. His employees were devoted to him in an unusual degree; and he seems to have had a rare instinct for picking capable young men for positions of trust and responsibility in the firm. In fact it was his boast in later years that every man holding an important position with the company had begun as a clerk in his teens.

Mr. Healy had a business vision that was far ahead of his time. He was the first to publish an illustrated catalogue to make his merchandise known. His newspaper advertising was considered extravagant, but it brought results. He popularized the upright pianos in a day when the square piano and the grand piano were the only types of this instrument in demand. To his patience and perseverance is due the Lyon and Healy harp, the best instrument of its kind in use today. The motto of his firm was "Everything in music", and so completely did the firm under his guidance live up to that standard that its reputation became world-wide even within his lifetime. In October, 1899, the partnership which had lasted a quarter of a century was dissolved by the withdrawal of Mr. Lyon from the firm. He had been out of sympathy with the policies of expansion fostered by Mr. Healy. Mr. Healy bought his share of the business and paid him for the use of his name. The economic collapse of 1893 found many

houses of business unprepared, and many of them were obliged to close. Mr. Healy, however, had again read correctly the signs of the times, and, as a result, the firm was prepared for the emergency. Most remarkable of all of Mr. Healy's traits was his readiness to assist other business men and even competitors when they were in financial difficulties. When some of his associates remonstrated with him about this, he replied: "There is something in business besides money." This is an excellent paraphrase of the Christian Ideal in business. Patrick J. Healy died on April 3, 1905 and was buried from Holy Angels Church. Bishop Muldoon celebrated the Pontifical Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul.<sup>21</sup>

The name of David F. Bremner draws our attention as we examine the records of the school, because it has never been absent from the list of Trustees since the establishment of the institution. For nearly forty years the first Mr. Bremner was a member of the Board. He was born in Canada in 1839 near what is now the City of Ottawa. He came to Chicago with his father at an early age. As a young man he graduated from the University of St. Mary of the Lake (whose charter is now used by the archdiocesan seminary of the same name). After graduation he did clerical work until the outbreak of the Civil War. He enlisted in a company known as the Highland Guards, which was composed of Chicagoans of Scotch descent; and this company was incorporated into the 19th Illinois Infantry regiment. The Highland Guards gained distinction at the Battle of Missionary Ridge near Chickamauga, which

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<sup>21</sup>Patrick Joseph Healy, An Appreciation, 1907. All information concerning Mr. Healy was derived from this source, no author or publisher is indicated in the book.



fact is commemorated by a bronze plaque in the Chicago Public Library Building. After being mustered out of service at the end of the war Mr. Bremner went into business for himself, selling bread and crackers. The Chicago Fire of 1871 destroyed the bakery which was his source of supply; but he knew of a small store which had an oven, and he immediately leased it. Thus began his career as a baker. About this time he married Catherine Michie, a young lady also of Scotch descent. His active participation in diocesan work dates from about this time, too, and was begun under the guidance of Father Damen, pastor of Holy Family Church, in whose parish the Bremners then resided. He was among the first to be invited to active membership on the Board of Trustees of St. Mary's by Archbishop Feehan. With the other men already mentioned he was active in the Union Catholic Library Association and was one of the founders of the Columbus Club. At the World's Fair held in Chicago in 1893, commemorating the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America, the members of this Club had the distinction of entertaining the Duke de Veragua, a descendent of Columbus. Mr. Bremner was one of the original members of the Board of the Catholic Church Extension Society, which was founded by Bishop Kelley of Oklahoma in 1906. Mr. Bremner died in 1922; and at the request of Archbishop Mundelein his son, David F. Bremner II, succeeded in his place on the Board of Trustees of St. Mary's.

Of the many other men of whom biographical sketches might have been included there are Mr. Curtis and Mr. Brosseau, both members of the Board of Trade. Mr. Michael Cudahy was successful in the meat-packing industry. Mr. E. F. Carry was an official of the

Pullman Company. Some notice might have been given to William J. Onahan, who was made a Papal Chamberlain by Pope Leo XIII, and whose name is perpetuated in one of the public schools of Chicago. But the four whose biographies have been included constitute a fine example of the lay organization of the Church. Differing widely by their individual places of origin and national descent they all came to Chicago as to a local point, attained success, and were devoted to the Church and Its institutions and Its Faith, which was the only common denominator of all of them. These examples of the financiers of St. Mary's make it evident why the school was able to continue its work of charity in those days before diocesan-wide organization occurred, when the existence of any Catholic institution depended on the ability and ingenuity of a small group of directors. Not only the school and those who have directly benefited by it, but the entire archdiocese owes a debt of gratitude to the pioneer Trustees of St. Mary's.

## Chapter VI

### MODERN ST. MARY'S

The year 1936 is memorable in the annals of St. Mary's, because it marks the beginning of the method of administration which exists at the school today. This last statement should not be construed to mean a really drastic departure from the past, but rather the crystalization of a system, towards which Cardinal Mundelein had been working since his accession to the See of Chicago. His name will undoubtedly be remembered in the history of Chicago as that of a great builder, an ingenious financier, and an administrator of unsurpassed merit; but his connection with the Training School concerned principally this latter quality. The school was built and completed when he came to Chicago; and, with the exception of the improvements necessary to keep the rating of the institution on a par with those of similar schools, it remained for him only to make certain that its internal affairs were properly administered.

Mention has already been made of the fact that to Cardinal Mundelein is due the formation of a Catholic Charity Bureau in the Archdiocese, which would administer or supervise the administration of the various charitable institutions which looked to the Archbishop of Chicago for guidance and assistance. This, in itself was a considerable improvement over the former system, in which each institution was autonomous and responsible (to a varying degree) to the Archbishop alone, a system in which the Chancery Office was used not only as a place for transacting the normal business of the diocese, but as a dispensary of charity and a directory for diocesan institutions. This

placed an impossible burden on the officials of the Chancery, which required a definite remedy especially in view of the rapid, almost miraculous growth of Chicago and consequently of the institutional life within it. These remarks should not be considered as an intentional criticism of ecclesiastical administration in the Chicago of an earlier day. The present magnificence of the Church of Chicago, both as regards its buildings and as regards the Faith of its people is due to the priests of a former day. Though they were capable men, they were few in number compared with the needs of the ever increasing population of the city; and consequently it should not be expected that they would or could be concerned with the finer details of administration.

In 1936, when Father Collins, who for the previous ten years had been superintendent, was appointed Pastor of St. Sylvester Church he was succeeded at St. Mary's by Reverend William A. O'Connor, D.D., who had been prepared for this type of work by a special course of study at an eastern university. At the time of Father O'Connor's appointment as Superintendent, the Reverend Peter Fuessel, who had been the assistant at St. Mary's since his ordination in 1933, was transferred to parochial work in Chicago; and the Reverend Edward Norkett and the Reverend Ignatius D. McDermott, two newly ordained priests were assigned to assist Father O'Connor at the Training School. In 1946, Monsignor Cummings, the Superintendent of Charities, was appointed to the pastorate of Ascension Church in Oak Park, but continued his duties at the Charity office until 1938, when Father O'Connor became the new head of the Charities of the archdiocese.

The Reverend Eugene V. Mulcahey succeeded Father O'Connor as Superintendent of the Training School. In this year, the Reverend John P. O'Sullivan, one of the newly ordained priests, was appointed as an assistant to Father Mulcahey; thus the new Superintendent had three other priests to assist him in the management of the school. The Cardinal throughout his life showed rare judgment in selecting young priests of distinct ability for important work; and his selections for the staff of the Training School were no exception. The priests appointed to St. Mary's were not merely chaplains for the children and the sisters; they were appointed as superintendents with all the administrative responsibilities pertaining to that office. His Eminence, it would seem, was possessed of a latent fear of the evils wrought on the Church in the United States in an earlier day by Lay Trusteeship; for he insisted that the institutions of the Archdiocese as well as the individual churches be managed solely by the priests to them. Consequently, the Board of Trustees of St. Mary's, though still in existence, does not administer the affairs of the school, as it formerly did.

In the year 1936, another important change took place in the administration of the school. The Sisters of Mercy, who, since 1906, had been caring for and teaching the children, were replaced by an order of French nuns - The Sisters of Charity of Providence - whose Motherhouse is in Canada. The services of this community were obtained for the Training School by the Right Reverend Victor Primeau, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Chicago. Incidentally much of the equipment used in the huge kitchen at St. Mary's is the gift of Monsignor Primeau. The duties of the Sisters at St. Mary's are many and varied.

Not only do they teach the children in the classroom and supervise their recreation but one nun lives in each dormitory with the children in order to be present, should any child become ill during the night. The work of these Sisters at St. Mary's is an all-day and all-night job, though their duties are no more arduous than those of nuns in similar institutions.

It is the desire of those in charge of St. Mary's as it is the aim of most people responsible for similar institutions, to make it as much like a home and as little like an institution as possible. As the children grow older, they are taken from the dormitories and placed in rooms with one or two or three others. They are expected to care for the furnishings of their room and to keep it clean. They are permitted to decorate the room with pictures of their own choice; consequently, the visitor to the school finds a rather complete collection of the pictures of the movie stars - the so-called modern heroes and heroines - on the walls of the rooms at St. Mary's. As was originally planned, the boys occupy the North Wing and the Girls the South Wing of the Main Building. But within each wing there are many subdivisions - "Halls", to keep from the mind of the child, as much as is possible, the idea that he or she is just a unit in a very big place - and a very small and insignificant unit at that. Such an idea would beget an inferiority complex in the child, while the most enlightened of modern institutional methods tell us that the best orphan asylum is that in which the child is able to lead an almost normal, home-like life. The two huge dining rooms (one for the boys and one for the girls) are partitioned into much smaller rooms, more nearly

the size of an average dining room. Each of these rooms has the name of a "Hall". And each child eats in the dining room that bears the name of the Hall in which he lives. The "Halls" are named for the past bishops and archbishops of Chicago, the former superintendents of the school, and some of its benefactors.

The religious training and the spiritual care of the children, as would be expected, is given careful attention; but piety and virtue are not, so to speak, "Thrust down the throats" of the children. The children are encouraged to go to daily Mass, but they are not obliged to do so; if they desire to go, they must get up earlier than the rest of the children; and this naturally tends to develop a strong Catholic character. The children may go to Confession as often as they wish, but they must go at least once a month. In order that they may not always be obliged to Confess their sins to the priests who are their superiors at the school, a group of young priests is appointed each year to hear Confessions at the Training School on the Wednesday before the First Friday of each month. Retreats are given to different groups of the children during the year; and the children have an opportunity to witness or take part in the beautiful ceremonies of the Forty Hours and the Crowning of the Blessed Virgin. It is the opinion of the author that these children leave the institution with a much more firmly established Catholic character than many a child reared amid considerable comfort in some of our so-called Catholic families.

At the same time, the intellectual life must keep pace with his spiritual growth. In this day of educational standardization even a school at an orphanage must conform to set standards in order to

have its diplomas mean anything. On the other hand, this is wise from a psychological standpoint, so that the boy or girl leaving such an institution may have no reason to feel that his education has been inferior to that of a child reared in his own home. The older children still have an opportunity to learn a trade or some useful occupation, which in later years will be profitable as a means of earning their livelihood. Among the several trades that the children learn, special mention should be made of the skill that some of the boys have attained in shoemaking and the proficiency of some of the girls in dressmaking. The author has seen exhibits of the work done in these two fields, and it is his opinion that experts in these two crafts could scarcely surpass the work done by the children at St. Mary's. A complete course in Beauty Culture is now offered to the girls at the school, and a number of them have acquired remarkable proficiency in this very popular feminine art.

For years the Training School has offered to its grammar school graduates a two-year high school commercial course, so essential for obtaining a job in an office. Recently, the school obtained approval of its course, textbooks, and teachers, so that now it may grant high school diplomas to the boys and girls who complete their four-year high school course there. This naturally is of great value to the children themselves, because in these days a high school diploma is in most cases a minimum requirement for a worthwhile job. Since the full high school course has become effective, the problem of caring for a number of children for two years more than had previously been the custom, presented itself. The high school enrollment has had to be kept down as much as possible on this account. So, whether or not a



boy or girl who has graduated from the grammar school at St. Mary's is permitted to enter the high school depends principally upon his or her conduct. Since the children genuinely love the school, though some of them go out of bounds once in a while, this system proves very effective in maintaining discipline.

The process by which the children come to St. Mary's is essentially the same as in earlier years. In the vast majority of cases they are committed to the care of the school by the Juvenile Court. Most of the children come from Cook County, and the rest from Kankakee and Lake Counties. In the early fall the greatest number of children arrive at the school - between sixty and seventy a month. In the institution a ratio of five boys to three girls has been constant. Even during the years of Father Collins' superintendency, when the enrollment was about twelve hundred children - the highest in the history of the school - that proportion seemed to remain constant. Father Collins himself explained this phenomenon by the fact that most of the children enter the school at the age of nine or ten years; and at this age boys are just beginning to become a problem to their parents or guardians, while girls at this age are beginning to become useful around the house. Consequently, when the stress of conditions makes it necessary for the parent or guardian to place some of the children in an institution, the girls are often kept at home, while the boys are sent to the orphanage. The present enrollment of the school is 835 children, of which 93 are high school students. Ordinarily no child is accepted at St. Mary's who has already graduated from grammar school.

The school program has been changed in some respects from

what it was in former years. Under the present system the children from the first to the seventh grades inclusive are in school a full day five days a week; the eighth grade and the high school students attend classes for a half a day five days a week; and the free day for all the children is Saturday. It is only in recent years that St. Mary's has had an accredited high school course. In fact, the first high school graduation at St. Mary's took place on June 14, 1941. The number of high school students is being kept at a minimum, because it has been discovered that at least one third of the children can be cared for by their parents or relatives after they have graduated from grammar school. The school itself is able to take care of only one-third of its grammar school graduates each year, while another third can be placed in foster homes; this is true particularly of the girls; but the boys are sent to the Working Boys' Home on Jackson Boulevard in Chicago, where they live while they attend St. Patrick's Academy.

The children who have been trained at St. Mary's have in nearly all cases given a good account of themselves by their conduct and accomplishments in later life. But of all its graduates the school takes a justifiable pride in two who have achieved the sublime goal of the Holy Priesthood. In 1936, the Reverend Andrew Coneglio completed his theological course and was ordained by Cardinal Mundelein in the chapel of the Seminary of St. Mary of the Lake. Five years later, in May 1941, the Reverend Francis Chambers was ordained at the Seminary by Archbishop Stritch. Father Coneglio is doing parochial work in one of the suburban parishes; and Father Chambers is a member of the faculty of Quigley Preparatory Seminary. It might be added that Father Chambers' appointment to Quigley was due chiefly to his skill in music,

the study of which had been begun during his boyhood days at St. Mary's.

The greatest problem of any institution is the health of those who live in it. The greatest menace to any institution is disease, especially contagious disease. Children have to be guarded much more carefully than adults; and, perhaps it may be said, the greatest danger of disease comes not from within the institution, but from the infection of a single child from some one outside of the school. The school takes the greatest precaution to make certain that the child entering the institution is not a "carrier" of a contagious disease. In most institutions a period of isolation is necessary for each entrant, before he or she is allowed to mingle with the other children. This system has never been necessary at St. Mary's, because Dr. Earle, who for many years the physician at the school, was a pioneer in modern methods of immunization against disease. The child entering St. Mary's is given the Schick Test for Diphtheria and the Dick Test for Scarlet Fever. These tests determine whether the individual is carrying the germs of these diseases. If the results of the tests are 'negative', the child is permitted to take his place immediately with the other children of the school. The lack of an isolation period is beneficial from another standpoint. It naturally takes a child a certain period of time to adjust himself to life in an institution. This period of adjustment of the child by the school, is hastened when the isolation period is eliminated; and thus more children can be accepted at St. Mary's each year. For it must be borne in mind that it is unwise to accept more children than can be easily absorbed into the life of the institution.

On one occasion a group of grammar school children were taken out to St. Mary's for a picnic. On approaching the grounds one of the children remarked in surprise that there was no fence around the institution and that even the gates were left open. The story-book idea of an orphanage as a place in which children are confined after the manner of a penal institution, and which they never leave until they have become old enough to take care of themselves, apparently prevails today even in this "enlightened" twentieth century. The idea is entirely false as regards every orphanage of which the author has any knowledge. The children at St. Mary's are permitted to go into the town of Desplaines every week. Groups of them are taken on trips to different points of interest in Chicago. The members of the famed St. Mary's Band take part in some of the most important affairs in the archdiocese every year. Within the last year or two the school has acquired a summer camp for the children; and every child has an opportunity to spend a week or two each summer in an entirely different atmosphere than that of the school. The boys and girls that are members of the athletic teams representing the school have a number of opportunities to leave the grounds for games during the baseball, football, and basketball seasons. It is quite natural for children to get the wanderlust and go out of bounds once in a while. But fences and gates are not needed at St. Mary's, or any other Catholic institution for that matter.

The idea of student government has become rather popular in the modern high schools and colleges. The "city fathers" in many communities quite enjoy the sight of the boys and girls assuming the government of the city for a day each year, as is the practice or

custom in many places. While the advantages of this sort of spectacle may be argued with regard to children leading a normal life in the bosom of their own families, there is no doubt in the author's mind but that the functioning of the Junior and Senior student Councils at St. Mary's is one of the foremost of the very many excellent features of the institution. The Senior Council for the high school students and the Junior Council for the grammar school students are the law-making and law-enforcing bodies at St. Mary's. They meet at regular intervals, and one of the priests sits with the members of the Council in the capacity of Moderator. And very often the priest's moderation is required to restrain the Council from undue severity to some "culprit" within its jurisdiction; for in imposing penalties for violations to the rules the Student Councils are in many instances much more severe than the Superintendent or his assistants would be. The penalties for infractions of the rules may be the reduction of the offender's weekly allowance or withdrawal of the entire allowance for a week or for a longer period; the penalty may take the form of the withdrawal of permission to attend a certain entertainment, to make the weekly visit to Desplaines, or to go on some trip already planned. The members of the Student Council know the offender as only children can know one another, and consequently know only too well what punishment will most contribute to the reformation of their erring fellow-student. And they don't hesitate to impose that particular penalty.

The children at St. Mary's are trained to meet the practical problem of life, among which, in our American scheme of things, is the "Yankee" virtue of thrift. The school operates its own bank - The First National Bank of Feehanville - which boasts of paying the

highest rate of interest on Savings Accounts of any bank in the land - one per cent per month. However, the youthful depositor must leave one whole dollar in the bank for a year in order to collect twelve cents interest. But a great temptation against this virtue of thrift lies in the fact that the candy store is just across the corridor from the bank. So, as a result, the bank is not forced to pay a great amount of money in interest each year. The possible deposits come from the allowances that the children receive each week and from money given to them by their parents or relatives.

Another way in which the school prepares its future graduates to meet and solve satisfactorily the problems of life is by the type of training given to its charges; and by training, in this respect, we mean not only the scholastic and vocational training, but also their social training. A chapter has already been devoted to the first and second types of training. Briefly we have indicated something of the particular training given the girls. It might be added here with regard to the girls that the primary purpose of the school was to make them efficient, practical, intelligent "home-makers". Father Collins took occasion to visit several of the girl-graduates of St. Mary's after they had established their own homes; and he testified to the fact that, from what he had seen, this purpose of the school was being fulfilled wonderfully. With regard to the social training imparted at St. Mary's, particular stress is laid on the extra-curricular activities of the high school students. Life in an institution will of itself tend to make the average child more social or sociable, and less selfish than that same child might have been in his own home. But social life, in the ordinary meaning of the phrase, is a regular part of the

activities of the high school students, just as it is of every high school boy and girl. The Friday night dances for the high school students are an important feature in the social life of the "young people" of St. Mary's. The many entertainments that are given by different groups of children during the year aid in this social training also. Appearing in "shows" for the amusement of their schoolmates gives the children poise and confidence, which are valuable assets in social life anywhere.

In bringing this chapter to a conclusion a word of praise and recognition is due to the seminarians who assist the priests in regulating the activities of the children at the school during the strenuous summer months. To the children they are affectionately known as "Yellow Jackets" because of the uniform color of their shirts. We cannot complete this brief picture of modern St. Mary's without a nod of recognition to the newest members of the school's faculty - Father Raymond Nugent and Father Francis Garrity. Father Nugent succeeded Father Norkett in 1940; and Father Garrity succeeded Father McDermott in 1941. The Trustees of modern St. Mary's are Mr. F. J. Doherty, the President of the Board; Mr. Frank Seng, Mr. D. F. Bremner, Mr. John Collins, Mr. James A. Sackley, Mr. Ivan McKenna, and Mr. William Frawley, the secretary. These are the modern successors of the pioneer members of the Board of Managers of sixty years ago. It is impossible to look into the future; but it is safe to say that the children at St. Mary's in years to come will be amply provided for, if the school can then boast of as capable priest-superiors and trustees as it possesses now.

## SUMMARY

In the course of this narrative the author has followed a chronological order to a certain degree. He has inferred that the accession of each new Metropolitan brought certain changes and consequently inaugurated a new era in the history of the school. Following this line of reasoning he should assert that the year 1941 began a new era in the life of St. Mary's; for on June the Fourteenth of that year, the fourth Archbishop of Chicago, the Most Reverend Samuel A. Stritch, paid his first visit to St. Mary's Training School. He confirmed a large class of boys and girls that morning; and in the afternoon presided at the first high school graduation. In his talk to the graduates he stressed the lengths to which the authorities of the school and of the diocese had gone to provide the children at St. Mary's with the best possible education. In concluding his remarks he said: "We do not know whether the training we have given you has been worthwhile; we do not know whether it will be worthwhile to continue this high school course with all the expense attached to it; you yourselves will have to give us the answer; and your answer will consist in the way you conduct yourselves after you have left these halls. If your conduct is such that the school can be proud of you, we will know that our efforts in your behalf have been repaid."

To evaluate an institution of this kind we must look to the record of those who are subjects of the school today and those who have already passed from its immediate sphere of influence. Several times throughout this treatise, it has been inferred that the children of St. Mary's received, in some cases, a much better and more complete Catholic training than many a child reared amid the luxuries of his



own home. The author has had ample opportunity to compare the children of St. Mary's with Catholic children of some of our parochial schools in the matter of such fundamental virtues as obedience and respect for the authority of superiors; and in some instances the children of our parochial schools have fallen far below the high standards of the children of St. Mary's. In the matter of sportsmanship on the athletic field the "poor orphan boys" of St. Mary's have put to shame their adversaries from our parochial grammar schools and high schools. The fine sportsmanship of St. Mary's teams in victory and in defeat has brought high praise from all who have seen them. Could the founder of St. Mary's, Archbishop Feehan, and the men whom he induced to associate themselves with him in this magnificent work of charity; have looked into the future and seen the inhabitants of the "City of Youth" (as St. Mary's is sometimes called today) they would have been more than content to make the efforts that were required of them in the difficult task of founding the Training School.

For nearly sixty years children, the victims of homes broken up by every imaginable domestic evil, have found refuge within the walls of St. Mary's. It might seem to the casual reader that this institution represents the culmination of the efforts of the authorities of the archdiocese in the field of charity. St. Mary's Training School is but one of several similar institutions serving the archdiocese. Without the publicity of Father Flanagan's famous Boystown, it is serving the same fundamental purpose, differing only in this that it accepts only those children that can be classed as "dependent" and in this that it accepts both girls and boys. The fundamental purpose of

the Catholic Orphanage is to care for the life and Faith of the child for whom, apparently, no one else is concerned. It is the hope of the author that these pages have demonstrated how completely was this purpose borne in mind by the many priests and laymen who have played a part in the first sixty years of the history of St. Mary's Training School at Desplaines.

## CRITICAL ESSAY ON AUTHORITIES

In preparation of the material for this thesis the principal source used was the St. Mary's Training School Corporation Minutes, volumes I to XII. These minutes constitute the bulk of the archives of the school; and they are a primary source for historical research. The New World, the archdiocesan weekly paper, was a source of information about some of the priests and laymen connected with the institution. Decet Meninisse Fratrum, A Necrology of the priests of the archdiocese of Chicago, by the Reverend Francis J. Epstein, (Higgins, Chicago, 1937) supplied some important data concerning the priests connected with the school. The Illinois Catholic Historical Review, volume I, number 2, October 1918, contained the biography of Mr. Amberg, written by Father Pernin, S. J., and also the article by Mr. Onahan, one of the original members of the board. A Study of The Early Catholic Child Caring In the Diocese of Chicago from 1843 to 1871, by Reverend J. L. Donahue, C.S.V. (A Thesis Submitted to the School of Social Work, Loyola University, 1941), supplied information concerning the beginnings of the charitable institutions of the archdiocese. Patrick Joseph Healy, An Appreciation (1907), written anonymously by the men who were associated with him in the firm that he founded, is an interesting biography of one of the early trustees. The Voice of St. Mary's, a monthly publication of the children of the school, gives interesting sidelights on the institution from 1938 to the present. Pamphlets published within the last two years by the archdiocesan charity office supplied information on the modern organization of the charities of Chicago. The information contained in the final chapter was the re-

sult of the personal knowledge of the author and of his talks with Mr. D. F. Bremner, Father O'Sullivan and Father Collins, whose knowledge of the instistution makes them dependable authorities.